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ARGENTINE, URUGUAYAN MINISTERS SIGN ECONOMIC AGREEMENTS

PY130328Y Montevideo Radio Carve Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 13 Sep 78 PY

[Relay from Buenos Aires]

[Excerpts] Uruguay and Argentina will increase their economic-trade relations. This is the content of a joint communique issued in Buenos Aires by the foreign ministers of the two countries at the end of an important work meeting all day today. The joint communique issued by Uruguayan and Argentine foreign ministers Adolfo Folle Martinez and Oscar Antonio Montes indicates that the two foreign ministers studied the international situation and considered leading questions of bilateral interest and the implementation of agreements that had been signed.

Both ministers reaffirmed their governments' main interests in increasing and developing more dynamic reciprocal economic cooperation that can guarantee increased and diversified trade relations, in seeking greater cooperation toward developing both countries, and in increasing complementation of their economies. In this context, they emphasized the importance of the current bilateral economic cooperation agreement and the need to broaden implementation of the provisions of that agreement, especially regarding trade. Both ministers also reaffirmed their faith in the process of economic integration in Latin America and agreed on the urgent need to revitalize the Latin American Free Trade Association [LAFTA] and through its action to increase bilateral trade relations.

They agreed that the next consultative meeting of the Latin American Economic System [LAES] should be held in Punta del Este on 20-28 November on relations between Latin American countries and the EEC. They agreed that this meeting should be given maximum importance to achieve positive results aimed at making relations between all Latin American countries and the EEC more dynamic and fruitful.

In addition to meeting with his Argentine counterpart, Folle Martinez also met with Argentine President Jorge Rafael Videla to discuss subjects of mutual interest and to give him a personal message from his Uruguayan President Aparicio Mendez.

Folle Martinez' final activity in Buenos Aires took place in the gold room of San Martin Palace, where he ratified the technological and scientific cooperation agreement between Argentina and Uruguay. This agreement seeks the implementation of scientific and technical cooperation between the two countries. To achieve this, a program of specific projects was prepared, favoring the exchange of technical experience and of scientific and technical experts, training courses and conferences. This program also provides for the creation of a joint commission to oversee implementation of the agreement. Finally, it is appropriate to mention that according to our sources, the Uruguayan Foreign Ministry has confirmed that it will vote for the reelection of current OAS Secretary General Alejandro Orfila, who is Argentine, at the next OAS elections.

BRIEFS

ANDEAN INSURANCE INSTITUTE ESTABLISHED--La Paz, 6 Sep (AFP)--Delegates from Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela, who are meeting here at the third Andean meeting of insurance superintendents, decided to establish a higher institute for specialization in insurance and reinsurance for the Andean region. This meeting began in La Paz 2 days ago and will continue until 9 September with official attendance by all the member nations of the Cartagena Pact. [Paris AFP in Spanish 1353 GMT 6 Sep 78 PY]

VIDELA ADMITS POSSIBLY 'EXCESSIVE' REPRESSION OF 'CRIMINALS'

[EUROPA PRESS report: "There May Have Been Excessive Repression"]

[Text] Las Palmas, 6 September--In the early afternoon the Boeing 727 carrying President of the Argentine Republic General Videla, who was returning from Rome after attending the ceremony marking the start of the reign of His Holiness John Paul I, made a stopover at Las Palmas airport. On this occasion he made a few statements in which he referred to the Argentine political situation from his own particular viewpoint.

Among other things, he said: "We say that there are no political prisoners in Argentina, and I say this with full conviction. In Argentina there are criminals who are detained for committing crimes. Subversive crime is a form of crime."

"This is a process of national reorganization. It is through a process like this that Argentina will inexorably arrive at a democratic regime. But it will be a full, stable, modern democracy. Times are marked by circumstances. When the right circumstances exist, full opportunities will be opened to the political parties, since we cannot conceive of a democracy without political parties."

Questioned about the thousands of missing persons in Argentina, according to the world press, he replied: "What other people say is their concern. It is not my opinion. What I can say is that Argentina has been coping with a war--not a conventional war, but a war all the same. Any war is dreadful, and even more dreadful are its consequences, its list of dead, wounded, crippled, prisoners and missing persons."

"As for the disappearances, I would say that there are five causes: First, a man may disappear when he goes underground and joins the forces of subversion (since these persons do not usually show their face); second, a man may disappear because the forces of subversion themselves executed him; third, a man may disappear because he changed his identity, left the country and is now attacking his own country from another country; fourth, in this dirty war in which explosives have been the rebels' common weapon, more than one has become a victim of his own invention; and fifth, I admit that there may have been excessive repression. However, we take responsibility for everything."

Regarding the return of refugees, he declared: "Let us make it clear that there are those who were expelled because they were unworthy; and there are those who opted for it, in accordance with a constitutional right which allows the executive power to hold people at its disposal unless they choose to leave the country. Once the special circumstances of the state of siege, which still exists, at present, are over and when the desirable conditions exist, they will be able to return. But those who fled and who have ceased to be Argentine citizens--since they are attacking not Videla, nor the government, nor the armed forces, but their own nation--will not wish to return."

POLICE REPORTEDLY LOCATE 139 MISSING PERSONS

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 11 Sep (TELAM)--The Missing Persons Department of the Criminal Investigation Superintendency has located 139 persons whose disappearance was reported to the police and the judicial branch. A police communique states that some of the 139 people located have already joined their families or returned to the institutions in which they were confined. [as received]

'CLARIN' WARNS AGAINST FREEZING TIES WITH U.S.

PY122130Y Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 10 Sep 78 p 12 PY

[Editorial: "Relations With the United States"]

[Excerpts] The meeting in Rome between Argentine Chief of State Lt Gen Jorge Rafael Videla and U.S. Vice President Walter Mondale probably helped to clarify the situation regarding bilateral relations, which have been deteriorating in the last few years, although the real reasons for this have not been easy to clearly identify.

When an objective study is made of the new policies put forth by the Carter administration these policies, which cannot be hidden, can be summarized in important points.

This brief description of U.S. and Argentine foreign policy goals shows that there are many areas of bilateral relations which can be negotiated, particularly human rights, which is the touchiest. Therefore, it could be said that human rights is bound to be reabsorbed into the overall context of relations, particularly since high Argentine officials have said that the more serious subversion has been overcome. They have admitted the existence of abuses due to the nature of this struggle, noting that these abuses are not a policy but an undesirable result of the situation. Under these conditions, reason indicates that internal matters are being oriented toward the reestablishment of a state of law in which human rights will be fully respected.

Of course, it is difficult to avoid mentioning the rudeness with which lower-ranking State Department officials handled this matter, an intrusion into Argentine internal affairs which was and should have been rejected. This firm, principled Argentine attitude has the support of all citizens who also support the measures of domestic relaxation being gradually implemented, which must be broadened.

Freezing Argentine-U.S. relations because of human rights would impair relations uselessly, simply because basic changes are now taking place in the world which will affect international relations for many decades. In the midst of this turmoil Argentina needs to preserve its world interests as well as maintain its channels with centers of technology and finance. The fact that the Carter administration's policies agree with the policies of important multinational enterprises, combined in the so-called trilateral commission, indicates that deep changes are taking place. Study of these changes should be a priority, and it is advisable to be in the best position to observe them. Once this is done, problems with Washington will undoubtedly remain, but they will be of a different nature and their solution will not be impaired by the current difficulties.

Better Relations Expected

PY111330Y Buenos Aires HERALD in English 10 Sep 78 p 5 PY

[Politics and Labor column by James Neilson: "A Shift in Policy on Human Rights"]

[Excerpt] Foreign travel has its hazards for members of the government. Awareness of this made many officials doubt the wisdom of President Jorge Rafael Videla going to Rome for the enthronement of the splendid new pope. But go he did, despite the ambushes prepared by the leftist yahoos that infest Rome and most other western cities. The trip was not a roaring success, but the balance was positive. As well as repeating his lively defense of his government's policies, Videla managed to meet several foreign leaders. These included three prime ministers--Andreotti, Barre, and Trudeau--U.S. Vice President Walter Mondale, and the pope himself.

fed up with the way the foreign press concentrates on terrorism here
the exclusi of so many other things. In fact, claimed the foreign press as such
was involved i campaign to denigrate the country and not merely its present military
government. B ile it is true enough that most reign journalists are prejudiced
against milita tators, it is also true that terrorism is of absorbing interest
to far more ne per readers than steel mills, national projects, or rainbow trout
in Andean lake Should any government doubt this, he need only tote up the column-
inches the Arg e press devotes t the sordid aspects of life in other countries
as compared t uplifting side. Most foreign embassies could also compile dossiers
on the Argentine press is engaged in a vicious campaign against their countries.
The British and U.S. embassies certainly could do so with the greatest of ease.

During his meetings with the foreign dignitaries, Videla doubtless did his best to con-
vince them that "normal times" are just around the corner. Before talking to Barre,
he has many admirers here because of his nononsense approach to France's economic
problems, four jailed Frenchmen were released. Relations with France have been very
bad under this government, and not just because of the powerful influence of the
leftist subversives in Paris: The case of the missing French nuns is still a major
irritant. Another irritant but a real one was the decision of the Buenos Aires
provincial government to downgrade the status of French language instruction in provincial
schools. It was justifiable enough from a utilitarian viewpoint, but the French are
very touchy about their language and saw the move as yet another defeat for their fading
linguistic empire, whose defense is an important issue in Paris.

Dealing with Mondale was even more tricky. It was reported that the two covered
a lot of ter with "new elements" emerging to make the talks of "vital importance."
The gene implication seemed to be that the two men did not settle anything substan-
tial either. Beware of big vague triumphs.

Relations between the administrations of General Videla and Jimmy Carter are certainly
in need of an improvement. As former ambassador to Washington Eduardo Roca stated on
Thursday, they are now "pretty bad" and could get much worse when the Humphrey-Kennedy
amendment barring arms sales comes into effect on September 30, something the government
will regard as a very unfriendly act indeed, much worse than Patricia Derian's
denunciations of "systematic torture" and "summary executions." According to Roca,
Carter's human rights enlightened policy is "contradictory" and "interventionist."

Both countries may be gradually shifting their ground, however. Here the dynamic seems
to be to step up liberalization, and the progressive application of legal pro-
cedures to prisoners the government admits it is holding. The great dark minefield of the
disappeared has not been touched, however, and will be a dangerous element on the national
political and social landscape until it has been satisfactorily dealt with. Apart from
being agonizingly slow, and in some departments has hardly started, but it
must and will have to continue if the government wants to cease being a target for
subversive sympathizers.

In the U.S. the Carter administration's human rights policies are being revised, and
the much-despised foreign journalists are asking the White House to be
more respectful of the Argentine position. Their basic argument is that it is in
the West's interest, especially that of the U.S., to bolster the "moderates" here.
It would be better if responsible people here tried to help out the "moderates"
in the State Department. Screeching accusations and insults at each other is not much

LA NACION GIVES DETAILS OF ALLEGED CHILEAN SPYING

FY121829Y Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 12 Sep 78 p 13 PY

[Excerpts] Rio Gallegos--Despite the secrecy of pretrial investigations, it was learned that on 3 September a Chilean bus was detained at the Puerto Natale border crossing, with 33 passengers. The bus carried explosive material stolen from the firm Government Coal Deposits [YCF] and several strategic plans with copies marked for several Chilean military agencies.

On that day, the Chilean bus, owned by the Bus Sur firm and bearing license plate ZYA-6, which is authorized to transport miners from Rio Turbio to the Chilean town of Puerto Natale, was transporting the last round of workers on the 2340 shift and was checked at the mine group No. 1 station of the 43d National Gendarmerie squad on the border between Argentina and Chile.

Probably due to investigations being carried out by the National Gendarmerie, the Chilean passengers and bus were thoroughly checked. Under the last seat on the right side of the bus a suspicious package was found. It was opened and 100 detonating primers--devices used to detonate dynamite--gelamon and other explosives were found, which had undoubtedly been stolen from YCF.

The package also included two sets of maps of the Rio Turbio locality, on which the installations of the National Gendarmerie and the homes of gendarmerie chiefs were marked, and a plan of the Rio Turbio electric grid and that of the state firm YCF. The light-blue and yellow bus and its passengers were first taken to the 43d National Gendarmerie squad, and the passengers were held until investigations continued further. Most of the passengers were released.

Still detained, however, is the busdriver, Pedro Segundo Anel Millapel, a Chilean with Argentine residence, and two passengers, Manuel Sebastian Chapa, a Chilean, and Israel Argentino Benderschi, a Chilean who became an Argentine citizen. Due to the secrecy of the pretrial investigations, it is assumed that these persons were involved in the spying operation and the theft of war meterial.

It was also learned that the plans with pencil marks showing key points and locations of several installations and infrastructure features were marked on top with the legends "carabineros" on one set and "regiment" on the other.

Gendarmerie Confirms Seizure

FY121726Y Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1700 GMT 12 Sep 78 PY

[Excerpt] Rio Gallegos, 12 Sep (NA)--Authorized sources of the National Gendarmerie today confirmed reports which indicated that on Sunday last week a Chilean bus was detained which transports the personnel of the Rio Turbio mines to Puerto Natale, in Chile.

BRIEFS

KIDNAPED LAWYERS--Paris, 12 Sep (AFP)--The Group of Argentine Lawyers Exiled in France [Grupo de Abogados Argentinos Exiliados en Francia--GAAEF] charged here today that a total of 78 lawyers have disappeared in 1978, 23 have been murdered in Argentina, and 100 are being detained without trial. [Paris AFP in Spanish 1239 GMT 12 Sep 78 PY]

EDUCATION SECRETARY RESIGNS--Buenos Aires, 12 Sep--The national government has accepted the resignation of Gustavo Perramon Pearson as education secretary. [Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS 1404 GMT 12 Sep 78 PY]

DIPLOMAT SEES 'ONLY INTERRUPTION' IN RELATIONS WITH CHILE

PY0816194Y La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 1130 GMT 8 Sep 78 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile--Bolivian Consul General Milton (Delfin) Cataldi has stated that there is [word indistinct] in the governments of his country and Chile to reach agreements regarding the situation caused by the severance of diplomatic relations.

The Bolivian Government is aware that relations with Chile are only interrupted and that it will study this problem as soon as the political situation has calmed down, Cataldi stated in an interview published by the newspaper EL MERCURIO.

He added: We are convinced that this cannot last for long.

Bolivia severed diplomatic relations with Chile in March 1978. Former President Hugo Banzer said that his government took that step because it found that the talks between the two countries about a Bolivian outlet to the sea had failed.

Cataldi visited EL MERCURIO editor Arturo Fontaine in the company of Consul (Javier Loayza) and Deputy Consul (Jose Vicente Donsoso Torres). During his visit Cataldi released a communique which states that the Bolivian people and government oppose any kind of interference in domestic affairs. It says that democracy is guaranteed under Juan Pereda's government, there are no political prisoners in Bolivia, there is internal social order and peace, and that all sectors fully participate in the development of the nation.

The communique also says that the statements made abroad by former Bolivian President Hernan Siles Zuazo are not true and adds: Sovereignty, respect and self-determination are principles that have a definite value and, above all, honesty in the management of public affairs will be the invariable norm in General Pereda's government.

It also states that the Bolivian Government is aware of the responsibility it has assumed before its people and firmly intends to constitutionalize the country, seriously fulfilling its responsibilities.

Pereda Sees No Change

PY1214355Y La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 2130 GMT 12 Sep 78 PY

[Text] The Bolivian Government does not see a framework within which new prospects of obtaining a sovereign outlet to the Pacific Ocean may appear, President Juan Pereda Asbun has stated.

In this manner, the president replied to newsmen's questions on President Augusto Pinochet's statements regarding our landlocked situation. The president asserted that the resumption of diplomatic relations with Chile had the primary objective of seeking a just solution to Bolivia's almost century-long isolation by obtaining its own and sovereign access to the Pacific Ocean. He then asserted that after long and fruitless diplomatic actions, the Bolivian Government had encountered the inflexibility of the La Moneda government and that it therefore thought it was unnecessary to maintain relations that did not produce any practical results, but rather seemed to have a merely dilatory aim. The Bolivian Government therefore decided to sever relations in March this year, General Pereda Asbun added.

The president concluded by asserting that the Chilean Government has not shown any signs of changing its attitude, so the Bolivian Government does not find any framework within which new prospects may appear.

COMMUNIQUE ON PEREDA-SILES ZUAZO MEETING RELEASED

PY121450Y La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 1130 GMT 12 Sep 78 PY

[Text of undated communique released by the General Information Secretariat of the Presidency]

[Text] The General Information Secretariat of the Presidency issues the following report to inform the people about the activities of the government in areas which affect the community:

1. President Juan Pereda, pursuing the democratizing mission of the government, is meeting leaders of various political parties of the country in order to establish a broad and sincere dialog that will allow joint action regarding the tasks that should be fulfilled to guarantee the full success of the current democratizing process.

2. As part of those contacts the president had a meeting in his home in Irpavi District on Sunday, 10 September, with Hernan Siles Zuazo, leader of the Democratic and Popular Unity Front [FUOP].

3. During the meeting, Siles Zuazo gave a short analysis of the present situation and announced the FUDP decision to contribute to the democratization process, at the same time indicating the date which, in FUDP's opinion, would be suitable for holding elections.

4. President Juan Pereda Asbun, in turn, praised the democratic behavior of the FUDP and confirmed the implacable government policy to democratize the country. Regarding the date for elections he said that he will study the suggestions made by various social and political sectors of the country so that the democratization process may be crowned by success. President Pereda concluded by stressing the need for a joint effort to maintain the atmosphere of freedom that is now reigning in Bolivia.

BRIEFS

NEW AMBASSADOR TO FRANCE--La Paz, 12 Sep--Former Bolivian Ambassador to Peru, Gen Victor Gonzales Fuentes has been appointed ambassador to France. [Paris AFP in Spanish 1341 GMT 12 Sep 78 PY]

INTERNAL OIL SUPPLY THREATENED--Energy and Hydrocarbons Minister Jaime Larrazabal has stated that oil exports threaten internal supply. He added that the only way to avoid this situation is by decreasing the volume of oil exports. Bolivian Government Oil Deposits [YPFB] is also experiencing a critical financial problem. The minister added that the foreign debt contracted by YPFB is $400 million. He stated that the YPFB situation can be improved since the country's gas reserves are estimated at $6 billion. [La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 2 Sep 78 p 1 PY]

VENEZUELAN DEFENSE AID--Venezuelan Ambassador Pedro Luis Echevarria stated after a meeting with Defense Minister Walter Castro Avendano that Venezuela is willing to increase its defense aid to Bolivia and to train Bolivian officers at Venezuelan military institutions. [La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 1130 GMT 12 Sep 78 PY]

TWO-PARTY SYSTEM TO END; GOVERNMENT WILL NOT DISBAND PARTIES

PY090106Y Porto Alegre Radio Guaiba in Portuguese 2150 GMT 8 Sep 78 PY

[Text] Brasilia--Planalto Palace spokesman Rubem Ludwig said that the government does not intend to disband the present political parties, but noted that the two-party system will be eliminated. He added that the National Renewal Alliance [ARENA] and the Brazilian Democratic Movement [MDB] will be disbanded only if their respective members decide to do so.

POLITICAL REFORM AMENDMENTS PRESENTED TO GEISEL

PY121422Y Sao Paulo Cadeia Verde Amarela in Portuguese 1900 GMT 12 Sep 78 PY

[Text] Senator Jose Sarney met with President Geisel at the Planalto Palace to present the amendments proposed to the political reform plan which the executive branch submitted to Congress in June. Those amendments were approved by the president. Senator Sarney will now speak to the Bandeirantes news team:

[Sarney--begin recording] I have presented to the president all the criticisms of the government's reform plan which were gathered inside and outside congress. The criticisms focused mainly on the duration of emergency measures, the requirements for creation of new political parties, and the automatic suspension of congressional mandates. The emergency measures will not last more than 60 days, the requirements for creation of new parties will be loosened and congressional mandates will only be suspended by a court decision, not automatically. We also adopted a proposal made by Deputy Dias Menezes [Brazilian Democratic Movement, Sao Paulo] banning any punishment affecting the personal assets of a former president of the nation as now provided for in article [of the constitution] (6874). We also presented other amendments in the original wording of some items to technically improve the government's plan and to clarify its objectives. I consider all of this very important since, through the approval of this plan, the country will leave behind the period of exceptional rules to enter into the state of rights. [passage indistinct]

MAGALHAES PINTO TO RUN FOR DEPUTY SEAT

PY111542Y Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 10 Sep 78 p 1 PY

[Text] Senator Magalhaes Pinto has already decided to run for a deputy's seat for the State of Minas Gerais, although he still considers himself "a civilian alternative for the nation's presidency. He will make public a note explaining why "I made a 180-degree turn from campaigning for the nation's presidency to become a candidate for deputy."

Magalhaes Pinto denied that he went to Cabo Frio to hide; "I do not hide when the situation is difficult, rather I try to stay out in front." He said that holding a mandate is very important for those who want to continue in public life, "to await the time when new parties can be created."

UNION DOCUMENT ADVOCATES CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY

PY121706Y Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 11 Sep 78 p 2 PY

[Text] In a document which they intend to deliver to congress today and which was released in Porto Alegre yesterday, 50 signatory labor unions assert that "the Brazilian people are sufficiently mature to demand a definitive constitution for the country, reflecting the reality of our times. Consequently, nothing but a constituent assembly, elected by popular vote and with the participation of the workers, can write a legitimate constitution through free debate and a free vote."

The following are the main portions of the document entitled "The Workers and the Constitutional Reforms:"

The constitutional reforms proposed created only disenchantment and frustrations, because they touch no sensitive chord in anybody. In addition to serving the interests of the regime exclusively, the proposed reforms only try to establish exceptional laws as constitutional principles.

In view of the current situation and considering that the government is determined to amend the constitution once more, the labor unions do not want to endorse with their silence the proposed reforms whose objective is to bring no more than relief for the current political situation. The original plan does not have the support of the people and, therefore, it cannot be accepted by the workers.

Amnesty is an instrument respected in all developed countries and is not intended to grant a pardon, but to allow the people to pursue their own destiny.

The development of the country has achieved only the concentration of wealth in the hands of a few, while most of the population struggles to make ends meet with meager salaries, left by the wayside in the process and without access to know-how, education and recreation.

A democratic constitution cannot exist without regard for stark reality, without representing all ways of thinking spontaneously expressed. A system cannot continue by dividing the population into the antagonistic parties--created by one will alone--which are taken for granted to represent the government line on the one hand and the opposition line on the other. Therefore, denying representation to any party which cannot command a given number of votes is equivalent to restricting free popular expression, as well as to endorsing political unreality.

The labor unions want to see the mandatory union fees and the mandatory vote in union elections removed from the text of the constitution. Through the mandatory union fees, the labor organizations have become mere dispensers of social services, in extreme distortion of their specific objectives.

Minister Warns Union Leaders

PY121729Y Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 11 Sep 78 p 1 PY

[Text] In a speech aired over the national television and radio network last night Labor Minister Arnaldo Prieto warned all union leaders "not to let themselves be dragged into movements which only a few are trying to put together, using labor unions for other objectives." He added that "the government is determined to act cautiously, but firmly, in enforcing laws which regulate union affairs." Minister Prieto also said that "unions are not political organizations because political activities are restricted to political parties."

TRILATERAL DECISION ON DAMS EXPECTED THIS MONTH

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 8 Sep 78 p 5 PY

[Excerpts] The trilateral meeting of foreign ministers to make a final decision on the coordination of the Corpus and Itaipu projects will be held in Brasilia probably this months, but certainly before 15 October, when the new president will be elected by the Electoral College. Diplomatic circles leaked this information after learning the result of the meeting between Azeredo da Silveira and Montes in Rome where they attended the investiture of Pope John Paul I last week.

A height of 105 meters for Corpus and the Brazilian Government's promise that the number of turbines in Itaipu will not be increased beyond 18 are the terms of the diplomatic formula devised to overcome the difficulties created late in May when Argentina presented a proposal which Itamaraty rejected.

A definition for the system of operation of Itaipu will also be included in the solution which will make the final agreement possible.

The final agreement can be considered a victory for Brazil since the construction of Itaipu will continue with practically no change from the original plan. With the Argentine acceptance of a height for Corpus below the optimum height--between 115 and 120 meters--Itaipu will gain a flexibility of operation that would be impossible to attain without the Corpus hydroelectric plant built downstream.

AZEREDO SAYS TRUCK DISPUTE NOT LINKED TO DAMS

PY081445Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1255 GMT 8 Sep 78 PY

[Text] Brasilia, 8 Sep (TELAM-EFE)--Present problems between Brazil and Argentina concerning truck transit should not affect the negotiations that both countries are conducting, along with Paraguay, to coordinate the Itaipu and Corpus hydroelectric dams.

This was stated by Antonio Azeredo da Silveira, the Brazilian foreign minister, who has just returned from the Vatican where he attended the coronation of the new pope.

According to Azeredo da Silveira, the matter of vehicles exported to Chile through Argentine territory and the coordination of the Itaipu and Corpus projects are different issues that deserve separate consideration.

The Brazilian minister is optimistic about the solution of both problems with Argentina, a country which has an insoluble bond of friendship with Brazil.

Da Silveira avoided commenting on the present stage of talks concerning the exploitation of the Parana River's energy resources. "Since a commitment of discretion was undertaken with the other countries, we cannot break it while it is still in effect."

In September of last year, technicians from the three countries began talks to coordinate the waterheads of the Argentine-Paraguayan Corpus project and the Brazilian-Paraguayan Itaipu project (under construction), since a greater height on one would mean a lower height for the other.

Attacks Argentine Action

PY121649Y Porto Alegre Radio Gaucha in Portuguese 1545 GMT 12 Sep 78 PY

[Text] The attitude of the Argentine Government hinders Latin American integration, said Brazilian Foreign Minister Azeredo da Silveira when the Argentine frontier was closed again to Brazilian trucks enroute to Chile.

In Uruguayana the situation remains the same. Truck drivers are transferring their merchandise, because the Argentine customs does not allow the entrance of cargo trucks. The Brazilian National Highway Department is doing the same with Argentine trucks.

OFFICIAL, LABOR SECTORS PRAISE PINOCHET SPEECH

PY121349Y Santiago Chile Radio Mineria Network in Spanish 1030 GMT 12 Sep 78 PY

[Excerpts] Santiago--The message delivered yesterday by President Pinochet on government projection and activities since 11 September 1973 was received with a positive reaction from both private and official sectors.

Several ministers said the presidential message was clear, specific and courageous, particularly in regard to achieving institutional normality.

Union sectors stated that although deadlines should be established in accordance with the circumstances, the presidential message is a warning for politicians who are waiting in the wings.

Regarding Pinochet's recognition of Chilean workers' economic problems, the unions noted that any measure which will contribute to ease this situation will be a good one. Union leaders noted that the presidential message will be carefully studied by the labor sector. President Pinochet was praised for his courageous statement regarding Chile's position and its unity in the foreign affairs field. Pinochet stated that Chilean relations with the United States were absolutely normal, although he said these relations have not been as fruitful as Chile had hoped.

LITTLE PROGRESS REPORTED IN CHUQUICAMATA TALKS

PY121410Y Santiago Chile Radio Mineria Network in Spanish 1030 GMT 12 Sep 78 PY

[Text] Santiago--The first meetings between Chuquicamata mine union leaders and (Gabriel Vas), copper corporation [CODELCO] industrial relations manager, cannot be described as either positive or negative because the meeting involved only submitting a memorandum.

(Pedro Tapia), president of Chuquicamata union, said he was surprised that CODELCO executives said they were not familiar with the demands included in the memorandum since these requests had been disclosed on 7 August to Labor Minister Vasco Costa. The union leader said, however, that his first meeting and future meetings with CODELCO will be fruitful. Furthermore, Pedro Tapia stated that Chuquicamata union leaders are still concerned because they hoped to have an answer to their economic demands. The labor representative reported that they will continue to hold a continuous meeting in Santiago awaiting a new call from CODELCO. He noted that he hoped CODELCO will be more effective in its answer to labor demands.

Moreover, El Salvador mine union leaders have proposed economic and housing problems to Bernardino Castillo, president of the Copper Workers Federation. Bernardino Castillo reported that he held a cordial meeting with delegations from El Salvador and Potrerillos. Asked whether there was also a pressure movement in these mining centers, he did not deny it. He requested that workers change their attitude to be able to start negotiations with CODELCO.

Miners Demands 'Unrealistic'

PY122159Y Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 12 Sep 78 PY

[Summary] The Chilean Copper Corporation [CODELCO] stated in a declaration this afternoon that it regrets the position of the Chuquicamata copper mine union leaders. CODELCO Vice President (Gaston Grez) read the official communique.

[(Grez)--begin recording] During the meeting with union leaders on Monday CODELCO told them their demands could not be met and asked the workers to present a realistic position.

"CODELCO regrets that its objective was not understood by the union leaders, who have closed these negotiations without achieving their objective." [end recording]

(Grez) then discussed other demands from copper workers. [(Grez)--begin recording] Union leaders have been submitting petitions to many authorities for a long time, and it is the total list of these demands which the finance minister was referring to when he gave a figure of about $50 million, even though the union leaders said that their demands could not cost that much. "I have here with me all of the petitions. I am not going to read all of them, because it would take a lot of time, but let me tell you that one petition submitted to a ministry by El Teniente demands a 50-percent increase in purchasing power, which it is estimated would cost $57.30 million." [end recording]

"Another petition made to the El Teniente manager would cost $840 million. (Grez) added that CODELCO cannot negotiate with anyone on this basis, since CODELCO's profit for 1978 is estimated at only $35 million."

[(Grez)--begin recording] "CODELCO is not closing its doors. We are not saying that workers cannot contact us and that we do not want to listen to our union leaders. On the contrary, we want to assure the public that we will negotiate on [words indistinct] facts and realistic issues, but that we cannot negotiate merely on aspirations, because one cannot give what one does not have, and this is exactly the case with CODELCO." [end recording]

MILITARY SERVICE EXTENDED TO ALL FROM 18 TO 45

FY121535Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1429 GMT 12 Sep 78 FY

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 12 Sep (AFP)--It was reported here today that Chilean military service will be extended to all persons, regardless of sex, from 18 to 45 years of age.

This decision is announced in a decree published today in the official bulletin.

According to the decree, military duty is to be fulfilled in any of the following manners: obligatory military service, membership in the reserve or participation in mobilization.

Military service can be fulfilled by regular conscription, special courses or the rendering of services.

The decree, which is signed by the four members of the military government Junta, for the first time includes women and citizens over 18 in military rules.

Another article of the decree says that military service can only be done in the army, the navy or the air force.

Chileans living abroad are to register at the nearest Chilean consulate.

PDC LEADER BLAMES REGIME FOR ATTACK ON HOME

FY121757Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1705 GMT 12 Sep 78 FY

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 12 Sep (AFP)--Andres Zaldivar, a leader of the Chilean Christian Democratic Party [PDC], today held the military government responsible for an attack against his home.

The former minister and congressman said that a group of young people crashed a jeep last night against the iron gates of his home, causing damage. They left pamphlets on which the slogan "Chile Forever" could be read.

Zaldivar said: "I hold the government responsible because it has the duty of maintaining the peace." He added: "In this country there are people who have the privilege to use violence."

Although the PDC was officially disbanded in March 1977, Zaldivar was named president of the party and he recently made a call for the unity of all Chileans in order to return to normal democracy as quickly and peacefully possible.

It was noted here that yesterday's incident is the third attack against Zaldivar in the last 20 months.

TOWNLEY CLAIMS DINA INVOLVED IN ATTACK ON LEIGHTON

PY121506Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1330 GMT 12 Sep 78 PY

[Text] Rome, 12 Sep (TELAM--EFE)--The attack against Bernardo Leighton, leader and vice president of the Christian Democratic Party [PDC], which took place in October 1975 in Rome, was organized by the National Intelligence Directorate [DINA], the Chilean secret police organization which was disbanded.

This was revealed last night over Italian television by U.S. citizen Michael Townley, a spy for the Chilean secret services who has confessed that he organized, together with two Chilean officers, the murder of Orlando Letelier, former foreign minister who died in September 1975 in Washington.

Townley also stated that in October 1975, when the attack against Leighton and his wife occurred, he was in Rome on orders from DINA.

Officers of the Italian INTERPOL indicated, when they heard about Townley's remarks, that they have no knowledge of his stay in Italy during that year, but they added that they will immediately contact U.S. authorities for confirmation.

The judicial investigation which the Italian courts held after the attack against the Chilean PDC leader has not, up to the present time, developed any lead which links the Chilean secret services with the people who carried out the attack.

'LA TERCERA' SEES NATION IN 'POLITICAL TURMOIL'

PY111442Z Santiago Chile Radio Mineria Network in Spanish 1030 GMT 11 Sep 78 PY

[From the press review]

[Text] The editorial in today's newspaper LA TERCERA DE LA HORA is entitled the fifth anniversary. The editorial comments on various aspects of the current administration. It states that according to the statistics, the country is in a stage of economic recovery. Regarding social aspects, the editorial observes that the nation is living in an environment of order and tranquillity, and in regard to political aspects it points out the importance of the writing of the new constitutional reform draft.

LA TERCERA also states that the concerns expressed by various sectors regarding the political situation should be considered, that they should be at least studied objectively and not disregarded altogether. It also states that, putting aside ideological considerations, it is true that the armed and police forces have worked very hard for Chile during this period and the people should recognize their efforts.

LEFT, RIGHT SAID TO TRY TO REMOVE CIVILIAN CABINET

PY130339Y Santiago Chile EL MERCURIO in Spanish 10 Sep 78 p 3 PY

[From the "Political Week" column: "Beneficiaries of Disorder"]

[Text] On the eve of celebrating the fifth anniversary of the military regime, two events of differing natures merit analysis: the symptoms of labor and political unrest, and the report of the commission headed by Enrique Ortuzar, which was published in part by this newspaper.

The long period required to analyze union requests explains the concern expressed by some of the worker leaders. However, it is evident that there are political instigators behind those concerns.

A visible opposition front is now forming in the country with the participation of elements from the former Popular Unity and Christian Democratic parties. It is easy to deduce that there is another invisible front, since communists and members of the Movement of the Revolutionary Left [MIR] operate clandestinely.

The opposition's publicity outlay is much greater than imagined by those who believe they have received life-long insurance with the military regime.

The internal opposition front presents obvious links with the external aggression front. The latter moves about in the halls of foreign ministries, in congressional chambers and in university classrooms, in a desperate struggle to disgrace the government and to achieve the withdrawal of support of all types, even on the part of those who would or have been spontaneous sympathizers of President Pinochet.

The strategy of the internal opposition front must be many-sided, but right now its troops are moving toward two main goals: One, to create an artificial climate of agitation to force the government to become stricter; and two, to persuade the public that the regime's institutional process is not truly serious.

Even though it may seem contradictory, the real enemies of the principles of 11 September are more favored by a harsh, unmoving and arbitrary dictatorial regime than by a military regime with a civilian government which is forceful but which follows legal norms.

In effect, pure repression could be extraordinarily efficient for a brief time but, since it does not solve the basic problem or awaken sincere support from the citizenry, its effectiveness tends to diminish in time.

The enemy knows it has a way to shorten the days of the regime: by forcing it to lose control and by pushing it into an arbitrary and extremist authoritarianism. For their part, the "hardliners," unaware of this game, believe the time has come to satisfy their ambitions and exert pressure for the regime to become more strict.

So, the internal opposition is now moving not toward the goal of toppling the government, but toward taking away President Pinochet' civilian cabinet. The artificially created disorder encourages the "hardliners." They could become the temporary beneficiaries of such a situation. However, uncontrolled hardening would soon yield some permanent beneficiaries: leftist extremists. Therefore, both extremes are definitely related: extreme authoritarians and the instigators of disorder are struggling to achieve the failure of the civilian cabinet. But, in the long run, the winners will not be the extreme authoritarians, but rather the enemies of 11 September.

GOVERNMENT PROFESSES IGNORANCE OF SPY CHARGE

PY121941Y Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 12 Sep 78 PY

[Excerpt] Social Communication Director Hugo Morales has reported that the Chilean Government does not know, officially, about the detention of Chilean citizens in Rio Turbio, Argentina as was reported in Argentina.

[Hugo Morales--begin recording] Regarding the report you have just mentioned about Chileans being detained in Argentina, there has not been any official notification submitted to the Foreign Ministry or to any other government agencies. [end recording]

INTELLIGENCE DIRECTOR REPORTEDLY GOING TO PARAGUAY

PY121414Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0335 GMT 12 Sep 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 11 Sep (TELAM)--Brig Gen Hector Orozco Sepulveda, Chilean director of military intelligence, has stopped at the Ezeiza airport, in transit.

He stayed at the airport for (?2) hours and then continued his flight to Asuncion, Paraguay. General Orozco Sepulveda, who was coming from Santiago, Chile, did not release any statement on the purpose of his trip.

GENERAL SAYS ARGENTINA WORRIED ABOUT ANTARCTIC

PY121506Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1506 GMT 12 Sep 78 PY

[Text] Antofagasta, 12 Sep (AFP)--Chilean Gen Tomas Opazo said here today that Argentina has rejected the arbitration on the Beagle Channel because its future in the Antarctic is uncertain.

General Opazo, director of the Military Geographic Institute, added that Argentina is worried about the new legislation on the Antarctic which may not favor its interests.

Last January Argentina rejected the British arbitration which gave Chile the Picton, Nueva and Lennox islands on the southern side of the Beagle Channel.

The Chilean general, who made this statement in the northern port of Antofagasta, noted that Chile has always lost territory to Argentina.

He added that since 1881 "our country has given up 1 million square kilometers, because, as good neighbors, we have always submitted our problems to international courts."

In conclusion he said that the dispute over the Beagle Channel has no justification.

BRIEFS

MAIPU BOMB EXPLOSION--A bomb exploded early this morning at the Maipu branch of the National Youth Secretariat. The explosion, which did not cause major damage, occurred at 0140 today at 409 5 April St. [Text] [Santiago Chile Radio Mineria Network in Spanish 1645 GMT 9 Sep 78 PY]

FORMER GOVERNMENT MINISTER PARDO BUELVAS ASSASSINATED

PA121524Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1501 GMT 12 Sep 78 PA

[Text] Bogota, 12 Sep (AFP)--Police have confirmed that former Colombian Government Minister Rafael Pardo Buelvas was assassinated today in his own home, located in Bogota's suburbs. According to the sources, Pardo Buelvas, who held the post of government (interior) minister during the past administration, was intercepted by two men, who shot him as he was about to leave his home. Mortally wounded, Pardo Buelvas was taken to the closest clinic, where he died. According to police spokesmen, it was probably a new attack by the urban guerrillas.

Government Communique

PA121932Y Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 12 Sep 78 PA

[Text] Bogota--The presidency's information and press office has released the following communique on the tragic death of former Government Minister Rafael Pardo Buelvas this morning in his home in the northern part of the capital:

[Words indistinct] dressed as soldiers showed up at former Government Minister Rafael Pardo Buelvas' home to report on security plans undertaken by the government for the defense of the citizens. They entered the house. When they were informed that he was in the bathroom, they entered the room [words indistinct] and fired several shots, killing the distinguished public figure. The criminals immediately left the house and got into a car where other bandits dressed as civilians were waiting for them. The assassins immediately fled.

The national government has entrusted the traffic director to conduct the appropriate investigation. It has not been ruled out that Dr Rafael Pardo Buelvas' slaying may be related to the subversive activities that have been organized on the occasion of the first anniversary of the 14 September slowdown, when Dr Pardo Buelvas was government minister. The national government has issued a decree honoring the memory of the distinguished public figure who was villainously shot. It has decided that his body will lie in state in the national capitol's elliptical room. Services will be held at the primate's basilica tomorrow. The government will continue its fight against crime with renewed vigor and will not yield in the least to the terrorist activities that have been undertaken and which will, by no means, go unpunished. The citizens should know that no police agents are authorized to carry out any duties inside the homes or offices of [words indistinct] officials.

[Issued in] Bogota, 12 September 1978

M-19 Claims Credit

PA121937Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1903 GMT 12 Sep 78 PA

[Text] Bogota, 12 Sep (LATIN)--The clandestine M-19 movement, an urban guerrilla organization of unknown political origin, today claimed responsibility for the assassination of former Colombian Minister Rafael Pardo Buelvas. A spokesman for the Interior Ministry reported to this agency that the gunmen uttered movement slogans as they fled after committing the crime. At the same time, Cadena Radial Super said it had received anonymous phone calls at its stations in the cities of Armenia and Medellin announcing Pardo's death.

Two years ago M-19 killed trade union leader Jose Raquel Mercado after holding what it called a "summary trial." He was accused of "betraying the country and the working class."

Marxist Groups Role

FA130520Y Panama ANP in Spanish 1750 GMT 12 Sep 78 PA

[Excerpt] Bogota, 12 Sep (ANP)--The Mexico-Sandinist Armored Self-Defense [Autodefensa Armada--ADO] Command has issued a communique for the assassination of former Minister Rafael Pardo Buelvas which occurred 9-10 days ago. A clandestine bulletin on the subject was sent to private communications media tonight.

The document states that Pardo Buelvas was killed for betraying the working class when, as minister of government, he allegedly approved the suppression of the civic strike on 14 September 1977, in which 20 persons were killed and many injured in street fighting with police. The document, which was sent to the press tonight, also urges newsmen and intellectuals to help prepare what it calls an honest, impartial reporting on the country's social reality.

Radio Stations To Respect Rules

FA122010Y Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1750 GMT 12 Sep 78 PA

[Communique issued by information and press office of presidency on 12 September 1978]

[Text] The Communications Ministry hereby cautions radio and television stations that all information concerning public order, if it can be disclosed, will be revealed through the presidential palace's press secretariat. Therefore, newsmen should contact this state office to obtain the bulletins issued by it.

EXTENSIVE OIL PROSPECTING PROGRAM ANNOUNCED

Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 4 Sep 78 p 6A PA

[Text] The national government has announced the most extensive oil prospecting program ever to cope with the energy crisis. In the next 4 years it will invest about 15 billion pesos in exploration activities. The figures were revealed by the Colombian Petroleum Enterprise (ECOPETROL), while Mines Minister Alberto Vasquez Restrepo reported the government's intention to achieve complete self-sufficiency in the field of hydrocarbons.

According to Foreign Trade Institute figures, Colombia's hydrocarbon imports last year totaled 9.- billion pesos. Minister Vasquez Restrepo stated that it is expected that 700 oil wells will have been drilled by the end of the incumbent administration. He said ECOPETROL has earmarked 3.5 billion pesos for prospecting activities in at least 18 oil wells next year. "Thus, the 10-year exploration plan will be accelerated so that the country can become self-sufficient in hydrocarbon products," Minister Vasquez Restrepo said after attending an economic meeting at San Carlos Palace.

The official explained that ECOPETROL's investment plan for next year will be coupled with investments by companies associated with the state-owned firm, which indicates that prospecting programs overall will be wide-ranging.

At the same time, Economy Minister presented the prospecting and investment program that will be implemented during the next 4 years. The figures are included in the following chart:

1978	18 wells	$21.- billion
1979	28 wells	$43.8 billion
1980	42 wells	$76 billion
1981	56 wells	$104 billion
1982	67 wells	$124 billion

PEREZ ASKS OAS MEDIATION IN NICARAGUAN 'CIVIL WAR'

PA1223447Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2245 GMT 12 Sep 78 PA

[Excerpts] Caracas, 12 Sep (LATIN)--Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez said today that he would like the OAS to serve as a mediator to stop what he called the Nicaraguan civil war. Perez stated: "We still believe that an understanding between the Nicaraguan opposition sectors and the Nicaraguan Government to prevent bloodshed is possible." He added: "Our aspiration is that the OAS serve more as a mediator than as an accuser of the Nicaraguan Government." Perez said during a news conference that Nicaragua "is in a state of civil war. An immense portion of the population is confronting the present governing [as received] situation."

Perez noted that "what is happening in Nicaragua deeply hurts us." He added that Venezuela "has assumed a clear and frontal position in defense of the people (of that country) and of their right of self-determination."

The president stated that "we are not carrying out any kind of intervention or interference in Nicaraguan internal affairs but we are taking advantage of agreements and pacts...to demand respect for agreements, especially those on human rights." Perez denied that Venezuela is seeking a confrontation with Nicaragua. He said that what is happening there is "very serious. There are already hundreds of dead and there is no sign that the situation is improving or that the government is able to control the action of the opposition which apparently is using the path of armed violence." Perez announced that Venezuela has asked for a postponement of the meeting of the OAS Permanent Council to call a meeting of the OAS consultation organ to see what progress has been made as a result of the mediation negotiations being carried out by Central American countries.

PCV PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE OUTLINES LABOR PROTECTION PLANS

PA2212239Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0229 GMT 12 Sep 78 PA

[Text] Caracas, 11 Sep (AFP)--Hector Mujica, presidential candidate of the Venezuelan Communist Party (PCV), said here today that the first task that would be taken up by his government if he is elected would be to protect the workers' purchasing power. Mujica adopted the stand in the first of a series of weekly meetings he will have with newsmen until the successor to President Carlos Andres Perez is elected on 3 December 1978.

He harshly criticized the present administration, which says there is "full employment" for all of Venezuela's active population. Mujica claimed that there are over 500,000 unemployed persons in a work force estimated at 6 million.

He said the income-costs relationship is unfavorable to workers because, from 1975 to the first half of 1978, prices have risen 50 to 60 percent while salaries increased by only 8 percent annually. He added that 33 percent of the workers earn less than 700 bolivares a month ($163), 25 percent make between 700 and 1,000 bolivares (up to $232) and 20 percent between 1,000 and 1,500 bolivares (up to $350). He noted that 1,000 bolivares in 1974 (when President Perez was sworn in) today is equivalent to 650 bolivares. Mujica asked workers to vote for him so that he can establish an adjustable wage scale and control prices.

It is improbable that Mujica will reach the presidency, political observers feel. It is unlikely that he will even approach the candidates with best chances of victory, Luis Pinerua Zoela (Democratic, progovernment) and Luis Herrera (Christian Democrat, opposition). All agree, however, that Mujica's charismatic and dynamic personality will provide him with enough votes to "save" electorally the small pro-USSR PCV.

PEMEX TO SELL PROPANE, BUTANE, AMMONIA TO U.S. FIRM

PA130324Y Mexico City International Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 12 Sep 78 PA

[Text] Mexican Petroleum [PEMEX] will sell $80 million worth of propane, butane and ammonia to a U.S. firm that has had commercial relations with PEMEX for the past 30 years. The agreement was reached during a visit of the director of PEMEX to the headquarters of the U.S. firm in Oklahoma. This firm has made great progress in obtaining proteins from hydrocarbons. PEMEX will make $50 million in long-term sales of crude oil at current prices, with an initial export figure of 10,000 barrels per day. According to an official PEMEX spokesman, that oil will be refined by the Texas installations of the U.S. company.

The director of PEMEX said that he also signed two long-term agreements, one for the sale of propane and butane for $15 million with a daily export volume of 5,000 barrels and another for the sale of 150,000 tons of ammonia which, also under current prices, amounts to $15 million in additional revenues.

Talks were held between the director of PEMEX, executives of the U.S. company and Mexican technicians who accompanied him. He toured the company's research center and witnessed the successes made in the process of obtaining proteins from petroleum for human consumption. According to the spokesman, this technology will permit a connection to be established, by the production of proteins, between the hydrocarbon-based energy field and the nutrition field. The director of PEMEX also visited the plastics research laboratory.

PEMEX has estimated that its total revenues will be 1.37 billion pesos over a period of 6 years. PEMEX Director Diaz Serrano noted that the decision to export is not an option but a patriotic obligation that must be carried out for the country's good. He said that Mexican oil has been sold at a greater profit than that sold by large oil producers. Regarding our gas, he reaffirmed that PEMEX only sells at fair prices because Mexican President Lopez-Portillo has ordered it that way.

The total PEMEX export figure for 1977 was 23.4 billion pesos, that is, 234 percent over that of 1976. That figure represents a sales volume of 206,500 barrels per day of which 202,000 were crude and 4,500 refined.

PST OPPOSES ISRAELI ARMS SALES OFFICE IN MEXICO

PA102258Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2047 GMT 9 Sep 78 PA

[Text] Mexico City, 9 Sep (AFP)--The Socialist Workers Party (PST) today exposed Israel's presence in Mexico as "a bridgehead for arms sales to repressive governments in Latin America." During a news conference at party headquarters, the PST affirmed that there is a clandestine arms sales office in this capital which virtually operates under the utmost secrecy.

PST leader Rafael Fernandez said that the name of the permanent mission for Latin America is "Israeli Aeronautics Industries (IAI), located on a street in the residential district of Polanco, in southwest Mexico City." The office opened in July.

Fernandez asserted that arms sales to Ecuador, Chile and Nicaragua, among others, are arranged there "as an indirect application of a repressive U.S. policy."

The Israeli Embassy said it knew absolutely nothing about IAI, according to the PST. The PST then announced plans to question the government about this "inadmissible meddling on Mexican soil."

NATIONAL GUARD DENIES CONDECA SENT TROOPS TO NICARAGUA

PA127134Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1634 GMT 12 Sep 78 PA

[Text] Panama, 12 Sep (ACAN-EFE)--The Central American Defense Council (CONDECA) has not sent troops to Nicaragua to support President Anastasio Somoza in his struggle against the Sandinist rebels. This morning several high-ranking officials of the Panamanian National Guard, a member of CONDECA, told this agency that the regional defense organization has neither been consulted nor asked by Nicaragua to intervene in the conflict.

Today, priest, poet and guerrilla Ernesto Cardenal said in San Jose that Guatemalan and Salvadoran troops had already entered Nicaragua. According to the high-ranking Panamanian military sources, this is impossible. If it were, the Panamanian government would know about it. Nonetheless, it has been confirmed that CONDECA has plans to aid the army of a member country in the event of extraregional invasion. A CONDECA practice operation, code-named "Eagle," was held in Nicaragua 2 years ago for that purpose.

NATIONAL GUARD AGREES TO RETURN OF THREE FSLN LEADERS

PA122150Y Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1800 GMT 12 Sep 78 PA

[Text] The Panamanian National Guard decided yesterday to accede to a request made last week by the Costa Rican Interior Ministry to again accept three members of the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN]. Lt Col Manuel Antonio Noriega, head of the National Guard Security Services, said that he made the acceptance yesterday on behalf of the National Guard General Staff for the reentry into Panama of FSLN leaders Eden Pastora Gomez, better known as Commander Cero, Fernando Chamorro and Pascual Hernandez. Noriega said that the three guerrillas will arrive here today. The three men participated in the seizure of the Nicaraguan National Palace last month. They arrived in Panama on 24 August with 22 other members of the FSLN and 58 political prisoners who were released. Twenty-two of those political prisoners are now in Havana. The other Sandinists are still in the keeping of the Panamanian National Guard at the Tinajitas Garrison.

Pastora and Chamorro were born in Nicaragua, but are naturalized Costa Ricans.

SOLIDARITY GROUP WRITES CARTER, WARNS ON NICARAGUAN INTERVENTION

PA120003Y Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 11 Sep 78 PA

[Excerpt] A member of the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] said during a meeting held by the Panamanian Committee of Solidarity with Nicaragua that Somoza is not the only enemy of the Nicaraguan people. He added that those who intervene in favor of Somozism, imperialism, for instance, are also the Nicaraguan people's enemies. During the meeting held at noon today at the newsmens' house, the Somoza government's proposal to replace Somoza as head of the government with one of his cousins was flatly rejected. Several commissions were appointed during the meeting to help Nicaragua in its struggle against the Somozist regime. The Panamanian committee will send a note to U.S. President James Carter announcing its disapproval of any U.S. attempt on behalf of the Somozist regime. The committee also announced that a commission has been appointed to visit the chief of the U.S. Armed Forces southern command, which is based in the so-called Canal Zone, to give him a copy of the note and also to inform him that volunteer combat brigades have been formed to repel any intervention attempt by the United States.

The Panamanian Committee of Solidarity with Nicaragua issued a communique asking the Panamanian people to donate foodstuffs, drugs and plasma which will be sent to Nicaragua.

SUBCOMMISSIONS DELIVER DRAFT LAWS ON POLITICAL PARTIES

PA122358Y Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 10 Sep 78 pp 1, 54 PA

[Text] During an event held on Friday at the Continental Hotel, the subcommittees charged with drafting the bills for the formation of political parties and amendments to the constitution for the operation of political parties delivered the drafts of both bills to Aristides Royo and Romulo Escobar Bethancourt, representatives of the national government, who will deliver them to the appropriate bodies for final discussion and approval.

The bill on constitutional reforms for the operation of political parties was delivered by Vicente Garibaldi, president of the commission. Other commission members are Cesar Pereira Burgos, Campo Elias Munoz, Carlos Changmarin, Eduardo Valdes, Aristides Royo and Romulo Escobar Bethancourt.

The new law deals with four basic aspects: political rights, the electoral tribunal, legislative function and executive function.

The bill on the formation of political parties was delivered by Arnulfo Escalona R. Other members [of the subcommission] are Jorge Ruben Rosas, Maximo Luque Jr, Carlos del Cid, Alvaro Arosemena, Nicolas Gonzalez Revilla , Aristides Royo and Romulo Escobar Bethancourt.

This bill deals with the national, provincial and municipal parties, ideological characteristics of the parties and requisites for the formation of national, provincial and municipal parties: A) number of followers; B) date to begin registrations; C) method of making the registration (registration books and registrars).

Regarding the law on the formation of political parties, it was recommended that after laying the groundwork for the law a commission be appointed to write it and send it to the legislative commission not later than 10 September 1978 so that it may be approved before 30 September 1978 and go into effect immediately.

When delivering the bills, both Garibaldi and Escalona emphasized that a climate of friendship and understanding had prevailed during the work of the commissions, which are composed of representatives of the National Liberal Party, Agrarian Labor Party, the Broad Front, the People's Party, the National Liberation Party, the Democratic Revolutionary Party and the Socialist Party.

Escalona stressed that these bills include the latest concepts of the parties' desire to operate again after 10 years of inactivity. He underlined the faith with which the parties that were represented have worked. He said that he regretted the absence of other political parties, which have given their reasons for not participating, and added that he is certain they will some day realize that they were wrong in not being present during these deliberations that are fundamental for the country's life. He said that he hopes these documents will not become a source of frustration and that they will not restrict the fatherland. He said he trusts that the laws that will democratize the country will emerge from these documents as pledged.

Royo emphasized the importance of the documents and the fact that the representatives of several political organizations have come together to work in good faith and cordially on things that are so fundamental for the fatherland. He noted that these laws and the manner in which they have been achieved are further proof that General Torrijos, chief of government and leader of the revolutionary process, acts in good faith and that when he gives his word and that of his government, he keeps it.

We have never held any doubts regarding the effectiveness of these laws. We knew this work could have positive results, even if this means there must be differences between the political parties and the members of the government." "We know there must be differences," Royo added. "This is logical between the government and the opposition."

Dr Royo also expressed his desire that this commission continue working, particularly because in future discussions, suggestions, reforms, additions and so forth will be made and because it is important that the representatives of both the government and the political parties cooperate. "Although there may be differences of opinion, rest assured that there is good faith and that your cooperation in the country's process of democratization is expected. I believe that you will soon feel proud to have participated in the drafting of this law, which will make it possible for our country to return to the path of democratization," Dr Royo added.

BROAD POPULAR FRONT SUPPORTS ROYO, DE LA ESPRIELLA

PA1116344 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 8 Sep 78 pp 1, 38 PA

[Declaration issued by Broad Popular Front Party on 7 September 1978]

[Text] The Broad Popular Front Party believes that the chief of government's decision to return to the armed institution is completely fair and conforms with the new stage being experienced by the country. With this decision, Gen Omar Torrijos confirms his quality as historic leader of the process and shows his grasp of the Panamanian social changes and his ability as a political strategist.

The difficult and dangerous conditions under which the nation had to struggle to lay the groundwork for the elimination of the colonial enclave determined the predominant role that the National Guard has been playing in almost all aspects of national life. This role was precisely what permitted the patriotic conquests contained in the canal treaty. Since then, the country has entered another phase. New forces are demanding participation in the debate of public matters. Some demand it in order to strengthen the process while others openly seek its collapse. This must be clearly understood. It is an unavoidable challenge to the men and women of the country who are in favor of increasing the patriotic and social conquests obtained in these past few years.

The responsibilities assumed by the Republic of Panama under the decolonization program, which is to be carried out according to a timetable, are complex. These responsibilities demand ever-increasing participation by large sectors to truly conduct the country's destiny. All national ideologies should be present in the frank and open debate of matters involving the fatherland.

The chief of government's decision will allow this wide participation to take the proper direction.

The candidacy of Aristides Royo for president, proposed by Gen Omar Torrijos, fits within this scope.

The Broad Popular Front Party believes that Aristides Royo and Ricardo de la Espriella are the candidates [who will provide] the continuity of the process.

The Broad Popular Front Party supports the candidacies of Royo and de la Espriella. This support will be firm and decided.

Political Commission of the Broad Popular Front Party

Panama, 7 September 1978

COSTA RICA

PRESIDENCY ISSUES COMMUNIQUE ON NICARAGUAN BORDER INCIDENT

PA122233Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 2004 GMT 12 Sep 78 PA

[Communique issued by the presidency of the Republic of Costa Rica on 12 Sep in San Jose on the attack on Costa Rican territory by Nicaraguan planes--read by announcer]

[Text] San Jose, 12 September 1978

Presidency of the Republic of Costa Rica

Major Artabia, of the Penas Blancas garrison, this morning confirmed the report issued by the medical post of La Cruz which states:

A group of students and professors of the La Cruz, Guanacaste High School made a trip to the northern border in Penas Blancas for the purpose of participating in the activities prior to the independence ceremonies, specifically in the act of receiving the independence torch. At the (?Cabalzeta) Bridge, 3 km south of the border, a Nicaraguan National Guard plane strafed a car owned by a professor from the same school. As a result of this incident, Prof Emilio Umana was wounded in the thigh by a bullet or by a piece of shrapnel. Prof Umana was immediately taken to Liberia hospital where he was given first aid. The country's government has lodged a strong protest with the Nicaraguan Government and initiated the corresponding national and international negotiations which such incidents demand. The nation's government guarantees to the country that it will proceed as the situation requires to protect national sovereignty and the security of Costa Ricans and asks the people of Costa Rica to keep calm.

Foreign Ministry Communique on Incident

PA122234Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 2006 GMT 12 Sep 78 PA

[Communique issued by acting Costa Rican Foreign Minister Bernard Niehaus on 12 Sep and sent to Juan Bautista Lacayo, Nicaraguan ambassador to Costa Rica--read by announcer]

[Text] The president of the republic has asked me, through the mission represented by Your Excellency, to lodge a strong protest against Your Excellency's government for the bombardment and strafing of Costa Rican civilians by Nicaraguan planes. The incident is of such a serious nature that unless an immediate explanation is forthcoming from the Nicaraguan Government, the Costa Rican Government will resort to diplomacy, international custom and the inter-American treaties granted to the nations which, such as Costa Rica, do not have armed protection. In the interest of preserving peace and maintaining good relations between our two countries, I urge Your Excellency to intercede with the Nicaraguan Government in order to obtain a satisfactory explanation of this incident. The Costa Rican authorities are preparing a detailed report which I will forward to Your Excellency in the next few hours.

I reaffirm to Your Excellency the assurance of my highest and most distinguished consideration.

[signed] Bernard Niehaus, acting foreign minister

ASYLUM WOULD BE GRANTED TO SOMOZA IF REQUESTED

PA121420Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1357 GMT 12 Sep 78 PA

[Text] San Jose, 12 Sep (AFP)--Costa Rica will grant asylum to Nicaraguan President Gen Anastasio Somoza Debayle "if he decides to leave his country and seek asylum in ours," Government and Interior Minister Juan Jose Echeverria has commented. According to the minister, Costa Rica would grant the general asylum if he requested it. It is recalled that Somoza has property in northern Costa Rica, in Guanacaste Province, where he even has a landing field on his ranch known as Murcielago.

EL SALVADOR

GOVERNMENT DENIES SENDING TROOPS TO NICARAGUA

PA121736Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1712 GMT 12 Sep 78 PA

[Excerpt] San Salvador, 12 Sep (ACAN-EFE)--El Salvador officially denied today that it had sent troops to Nicaragua to support the besieged government of Gen Anastasio Somoza and termed as "irresponsible" statements made to this effect by Nicaraguan priest and poet Ernesto Cardenal. "We condemn such irresponsible statements by Cardenal," stated Lt Col Rafael Flores Lima, press secretary of the presidency. Flores Lima reiterated that El Salvador firmly believes in nonintervention in the affairs of other states.

GUATEMALA

DEFENSE MINISTER DENIES INTERVENTION IN NICARAGUA

PA121735Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1641 GMT 12 Sep 78 PA

[Excerpt] Guatemala City, 12 Sep (ACAN-EFE)--Guatemalan Defense Minister Gen Otto Spiegeler today denied that Guatemalan troops have been sent to Nicaragua in support of Anastasio Somoza's regime. "That is an absurdity," Spiegeler commented, when asked by this agency about the charge made in Costa Rica by Nicaraguan priest and poet Ernesto Cardenal that Salvadoran and Guatemalan troops had entered Nicaragua to help troubled President Somoza. General Spiegeler reiterated that Guatemala respects the international principle of non-intervention by one state in the affairs of another.

Ernesto Cardenal today told this agency in San Jose that Somoza is receiving emergency aid in the form of Guatemalan and Salvadoran troops, which had already taken over several northern towns in Nicaragua.

NICARAGUA

GENERAL SOMOZA HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE

PA122036Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2010 GMT 12 Sep 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 12 Sep (ACAN-EFE)--The Nicaraguan National Guard has reported 110 casualties casualties--30 dead and 80 injured--since the Sandinist National Liberation Front launched its greatest offensive in decades on Saturday. Nicaraguan President Gen Anastasio Somoza himself disclosed the figure during a press conference held at non today in this capital. Somoza stated that this has been the most wide-ranging and bloodiest offensive against the legitimate Government of Nicaragua in the past 50 years. He did not report the number of casualties among the guerrillas who, he said, number scarcely 40 in each city.

Further Report

PA122037Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2002 GMT 12 Sep 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 12 Se (ACAN-EFE)--Nicaraguan President Gen Anastasio Somoza has denied that Salvadoran and Guatemalan troops have arrived in his country to fight the Sandinist rebels. Speaking at a news conference held today, Tuesday, at noon, in this capital, General Somoza explained that under the Central American Common Defense Pact he could request that aid, but that so far the Nicaraguan army has shown itself capable of repulsing the guerrilla offensive. The rumor that Guatemalan and Salvadoran troops had arrived in Nicaragua--also denied by the governments of those nations--was circulated today in San Jose by priest, poet and guerrilla Ernesto Cardenal.

President Somoza also said that he does not believe that any nation is openly endorsing the rebels, whose offensive last Saturday he described as "the largest and bloodiest that has been launched against the constituted government" in the past 50 years.

According to Somoza, his troops have already recovered the city of Masaya and are currently engaged in the process of recovering full control over the entire country.

During the news conference held at noon Somoza said that in the last 24 hours the army has managed to neutralize the largest guerrilla offensive launched in the past 50 years against the constitutional government.

According to the president, in the city of Leon the insurgent nerve centers have been controlled. In Estell, the city's downtown area is under army control and "marginal pockets" dominated by the rebels are currently being contested. In Chinandega, Somoza said, there are many barricaded zones but, in general, loyal troops are in control of the situation. In the south, on the border with Costa Rica, an illegal influx of Sandinists was repulsed, and the survivors had to recross the border, the president indicated.

President Somoza also announced that Nicaragua will protest to the Costa Rican Government for letting the Sandinist guerrillas cross the common border so easily to fight against the regular troops.

During the news conference, General Somoza said that this morning some 50 Sandinists had entered Nicaragua from Costa Rica through the Sapoa area. The rebels were detected by the National Guard, which attacked them on land and in the air, finally forcing the survivors to return to Costa Rica. According to Somoza, the San Jose government will be asked to be more vigilant on the border. Further on, he said he needed to study the case before issuing any statement about a Nicaraguan military plane's alleged violation of Costa Rican territory this morning near the border.

President Daraza's government announced at noon that a Costa Rican citizen had been wounded as a result of the Nicaraguan air attack.

Additional Comments Reported

PA122214Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2111 GMT 12 Sep 78 PA

[Excerpt] Managua, 12 Sep (ACAN-EFE)--A calm and confident Somoza disconcerted world public opinion today when, during a press conference, he ignored the issue of his resignation and said that "I will control the entire country in less than 24 hours." However, he admitted that the offensive launched by the Sandinist National Liberation Front and other top action sectors is the most serious in the past 50 years of Nicaraguan history and that his government has had some difficulties.

Nevertheless, he denied that the present situation is critical, especially in the economic and military sectors. Regarding the economy, he said that the country's fundamental activity, agriculture, had not been affected by the wave of violence. Regarding the military scene, he said that the troops, loyal to his administration, recaptured the city of Masaya and are in the process of controlling the whole country.

When questioned about his obstinacy and his refusal to surrender power, he replied that the obstinacy was on the part of those who are determined to continue demanding his resignation and those who have refused to talk. He immediately asserted that he is willing to talk at any time with the Broad Opposition Front or any other opposition group.

The Nicaraguan president denied that his cousin Luis Pallais Debayle had visited several Latin American countries seeking the acceptance of a national government without Somoza. "Luis Pallais was on personal business," he said.

Asked about the number of enemy guerrillas, Somoza said that there were groups of 30 or 40 guerrillas at each of the places which were attacked. "Why is it then that the government must use such a large number of troops and equipment?" a newsman asked. Somoza replied that the guerrillas are entering occupied homes to fight from them and that this hampers operations and endangers the lives of civilians.

When a Costa Rican journalist asked him if he would not like for his country, Nicaragua, to have a Costa Rican-style democratic government, Somoza answered that the people have the ability to choose different types of government. He noted as an example that blacks are impeded from reaching the capital, San Jose, and that "in Nicaragua we have never had" this type of discrimination.

He flatly denied that the United States has cut economic aid to Nicaragua. He stated that what the Carter administration has done is to suspend its military aid and the sale of weapons on credit. He noted, however, that Nicaragua has obtained the arms it needed in other countries and that this has prevented the slightest weakening of the fighting capacity of the National Guard.

Somoza stated that the mission of the Costa Rican Foreign Ministry aimed at convoking a meeting of Central American presidents to solve the Nicaragua case has failed. Somoza said that at the beginning this initiative was received with optimism but that when the governments found out that the objective was to secure peace between the guerrillas and the legally constituted government of Somoza, they refused to participate on the basis of the doctrine of nonintervention in the domestic affairs of another state.

Somoza said that relations between Nicaragua and Venezuela "are cold." He said that Nicaragua dedicates only 10 percent of its national budget to the armed forces, an amount which he characterized as "small."

Somoza admitted that he has called on army reserves to handle police operations in Managua while regular soldiers are being sent to areas in the country where they are needed to fight.

The big question, that of his possible resignation and his replacement by a government of national consensus, was not touched upon by the president of Nicaragua although several questions were asked in this regard.

According to the journalists who participated in this news conference, Somoza appeared as confident and as firm as he has ever been.

Further Comments

PA122352Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2231 GMT 12 Sep 78 PA

[Excerpts] Managua, 12 Sep (ACAN-EFE)--The "largest and bloodiest" Sandinist offensive against the government of Gen Anastasio Somoza has been carried out by approximately 150 appropriately trained and armed youths. At least that was the figure cited by President Anastasio Somoza today during a news conference in the former military casino. It was held under exceptional security measures.

He added that the operation to neutralize "isolated pockets" of rebels, removing the barricades in the cities of Esteli, Masaya and Chinandega, will take the Nicaraguan army at least 1 week. He said that "the Sandinist offensive has been defeated."

On the use of armed air force planes in the fighting against the rebels, General Somoza said that "the air force has not been used in fighting in the cities. The air force has been used only in fighting outside the cities, to remove barricades in Chinandega and on the highway to Somotillo (north of the country) as well as in Esteli, where the rebels occupied the highway maintenance depot, which they burned. The depot is located in an unpopulated area," Somoza said.

When asked about an armed invasion from Honduras, Somoza replied: "We have not heard anything about it."

Somoza was asked about comments regarding the way in which the National Guard was shooting in Masaya, causing many civilian victims. He answered: "It is regrettable that the guerrillas are going into private homes, commandeering residences and fighting from there. We regret it deeply but we must neutralize those guerrillas. Otherwise, we would have to leave the city. This is one of the bloody aspects of this type of struggle."

Somoza also said that the guerrillas, in their attacks, were taking advantage of the fact that Managua police posts built after the December 1972 earthquake were constructed of wood. He said that guerrillas had burned a police station in Managua and another in the Monimbo Indian district in Masaya. In the latter, guerrillas killed two officers and six enlisted men. He said that the state of siege had been decreed in Masaya and Esteli to curb what he described as "widespread looting in marketplaces."

GOVERNMENT ASKS FOR CITIZENS' COOPERATION

PA130312Y Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0154 GMT 13 Sep 78 PA

[Communique No 51 issued in Managua by Press and Information Secretariat of the Presidency of the Republic--read by announcer]

[Text] The Press and Information Secretariat of the Presidency of the Republic advises the citizens [words indistinct] that in order to wipe out violence at all (?levels), such as manufacturing and throwing bombs, erecting barricades, building bonfires, distributing subversive material and other acts of violence which disrupt Nicaraguan law and order, the government of the republic, aware of its duties, has intensified patrols in Managua and all cities and municipalities of the republic. Therefore, citizens are asked to cooperate with the authorities in fulfillment of their duties so as to guarantee the lives and property of Nicaraguan citizens.

Managua, National District, [words indistinct] 1978

[Signed] Press and Information Secretariat of the Presidency of the Republic

CARTER DENOUNCED FOR SENDING CENTRAL AMERICAN TROOPS

PA121526Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1506 GMT 12 Sep 78 PA

[William Cespedes report--presumably live]

[Text] We have Ernesto Cardenal, a Sandinist front member, on our telephone line. He is going to make exclusive statements for Radio Reloj:

[Cardenal] I speak to denounce President Carter's launching of Salvadoran and Guatemalan troops against the Nicaraguan people to prevent Somoza's dictatorship from being overthrown. Those troops have already entered Nicaraguan territory and occupied townsnips in the northern part of the country, while dictator Somoza has given orders to kill all Sandinists. This means killing almost all the population.

[Question] Mr Cardenal, how did you receive this information that the American president has sent troops from those countries to Nicaragua?

[Answer] It has been widely confirmed by foreign and local sources. The troops are already in Nicaragua.

[Question] Are the troops arriving right now or when did they enter?

[Answer] They have already entered Nicaragua. They are occupying townships in the northern part of the country. That is all I can say.

[Reporter] Thank you.

SANDINIST FRONT ISSUES 'WAR BULLETIN'

PA130413Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0251 GMT 13 Sep 78 PA

[Excerpts] San Jose, 12 Sep (ACAN-EFE)--In its "War Bulletin No 8" the "Sandinist National Liberation Front" [FSLN] states that its troops have reached as far as Rivas in southern Nicaragua, only 30 km from the Costa Rican border. The message, read by a woman with a Nicaraguan accent, is datelined "somewhere in Nicaragua."

The FSLN adds that its "Benjamin Zeledon" southern front has besieged the Rivas garrison and is proceding to control the entire city. It adds: "There is now heavy fighting between our troops and Somoza's Guard." It says that the Sandinist columns "have advanced fiercely and have neutralized the National Guard posts set up in Penas Blancas and Rivas to stop the advance of the Sandinist army."

The bulletin says that more information on these operations will be forthcoming in future bulletins.

The communique said that armed clashes took place in Las Pilas, Sapoa, El Congo and Las Lajas.

Meanwhile, the "Rigoberto Lopez Perez" western front, operating in Leon, reported that battles in that city are continuing and that homes of Somoza's followers have been burned.

The FSLN said that barricades have been erected at the entrance to Chinandega, in eastern Nicaragua.

The "Camilo Ortega Saavedra" central front reported seizing mechanized units and the "Carlos Fonseca Amador" northern front said that the Sandinists control the city of Estelí.

The FSLN claimed that the Nicaraguan air force, in its attempt to check the offensive, today bombed the coastline of the great lake in southern Nicaragua, "causing deaths among families of humble fishermen." Although it did not specify the number of National Guard casualties the FSLN claimed that "serious casualties have been inflicted upon National Guard regular, mechanized and infantry forces."

FSLN Appeals

PA1304337 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0349 GMT 13 Sep 78 PA

[Text] San Jose, Costa Rica, 12 Sep (ACAN-EFE)--The Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) issued an urgent communique tonight asking for the support of the world's democratic forces. The communique was also read this time by a woman to the ACAN-EFE representative in San Jose.

The communique says that "beginning today, when the Sandinist offensive has increased with the advance of the Benjamin Zeledon columns from the southern front, the fall of Somozaism is more imminent." The communique adds that "it is precisely in these moments that it is necessary to increase the spiritual, political and material efforts of all nations in the world, of all democratic and political forces, to support the vigorous drive being carried out by our peoples, who are definitely set on obtaining their liberation." The Sandinists say that world solidarity is decisive "to prevent the intervention by all means of the most reactionary sectors of imperialism and the region."

The FSLN also reaffirms its decision of not accepting deals behind the backs of the people. Finally, the armed rebel movement against the government of General Somoza says that "the foundations for the provisional government have already been established by the FSLN and the government will be established once the military objectives have been reached by the triumphant Sandinist offensive."

FSLN LEADER WARNS OF POSSIBLE U.S. INTERVENTION

PA1311192 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1045 GMT 12 Sep 78 PA

[Text] Barcelona, Spain, 12 Sep (EFE)--The United States has set up mechanisms to intervene indirectly in the Caribbean Basin, where it has so many interests, Miguel Castaneda, the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) special envoy to Europe has said in an interview published on Tuesday by the Barcelona newspaper, MUNDO DIARIO.

Castaneda, 36, left Nicaragua a few hours after the massive Sandinist attacks on Saturday. He starts a tour of seven European countries in Spain, with the purpose of meeting with leaders of political parties and government representatives.

He said: "The Sandinist Front's present offensive is part of a coordinated plan to incorporate the population. The attacks, which started on Saturday 10 September in the 16 departments of the country, will increase in the next few days. A large number of Nicaraguans who were in exile in neighboring countries are returning to join the movement."

After summarizing the present military situation in difference places, Castaneda again voiced the fear that the United States will threaten Nicaragua's independence and noted that on four previous occasions U.S. troops occupied the country, the last being in 1972, when the earthquake caused the National Guard to scatter.

"The United States is willing to support Luis Pallais but will not obtain the aid of the peoples and governments of Venezuela, Panama or Costa Rica, as these know that Nicaraguans are determined to wipe out every vestige of the dictatorship."

Miguel Castaneda's statements conclude with the statement that for the Sandinist front the only valid alternative at this time is the formation of a provisional government headed by the "Group of 12," which consists of figures from the business, professional and education fields, who are esteemed by the democratic opposition sector. "In calling upon the 'Group of 12' to form the government the Sandinist front bases itself upon two essential points: the expropriation of Somoza's properties and the reorganization of a true national army."

COMMANDER CERO COMMENTS IN 10 SEP INTERVIEW

PA121554Y Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1800 GMT 11 Sep 78 PA

[Excerpts of correspondent Guillermo Perez Verdusco's interview with Sandinist leader Eden Pastora, Commander Cero, before latter left Costa Rica for Panama on 10 September--recorded]

[Text] [Pastora--apparently in progress] Our current goal is to present the gift of freedom to the Nicaraguan people. It is not really presenting a gift but recognizing it as a right of the Nicaraguan people. What we are trying to do is form a national government with the participation of all popular sectors, of mass organizations, a broad front, an FAO [Broad Opposition Front] in which the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN], sine qua non, will participate because it has assumed the historic responsibility of guiding the people toward liberation.

We accept a national provisional, transitional government to prepare objective, true and honest conditions in order to hold elections in which the people will elect the type of government they desire. If the people want a conservative government, they will have a conservative government; if they want a revolutionary Sandinist government, they will have a revolutionary Sandinist government; and if they want a communist government, we will welcome it. The main thing is that the will of the people be respected. This is a dream that has lasted for 44 years which we hope is within our reach at this moment and in view of the historic situation we are experiencing.

[Question] That means that there are not only two alternatives, as Somoza has repeatedly said. He has said that the only alternatives are Somozaism or communism. There is a third alternative, which seems to be the logical one and that is for the people to decide what kind of regime it wants.

[Answer] Somoza ordered the killing of Pedro Joaquin Chamoro because there was a moment at which Chamorro was the only one who could fill the power vacuum if Somoza disappeared. That was the true, real and logical reason for Somoza to order the killing of Pedro Joaquin. Now he has the banner of a power vacuum--a power vacuum, a song that has been repeated over the past few days. The power vacuum does not exist. There is a group of 12 personalities in Nicaragua at the present time. They are the most honest people in Nicaragua. We have been lucky that they have been able to get together. These persons have given their support to the FSLN. The FSLN recognizes them as the most honest group, and it would be the only provisional government the FSLN would respect as a guarantor of a preelectoral process in which the people would elect, by their own will, the government that is to conduct Nicaragua's destiny. Consequently, there is no power vacuum in Nicaragua.

Somoza has been signing his little song for 15 years, claiming that anybody opposing him, or anything which was anti-Somozist, was communist. For example, you have the case of Pedro Joaquin. The Somozist newspapers filled their front pages with banner headlines calling Chamorro a communist. When Fernando Aguero Rocha became a political leader, then the Agueros were communists. When the liberal wing of the U.S. Congress expressed disagreement with Somoza's repressive policy, he called them communists. Somoza's madness has reached such an extreme that he has said that the U.S. Government is communist.

We regard Somoza as the last marine in Nicaragua. He thinks, feels and talks like a U.S. citizen. He issues repressive orders as if [the National Guard] is an occupation army. I believe that any occupation army would treat the Nicaraguan people less harshly than Somoza's army. If you have come from or are going to Nicaragua, you will confirm what I am telling you.

FIGHTING CONTINUES DESPITE PRESIDENTIAL ASSURANCES

PA131037Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1012 GMT 13 Sep 78 PA

[Excerpt] Managua, 12 Sep (AFP)--President Anastasio Somoza announced today that government forces have crushed the insurrection which erupted simultaneously in several Nicaraguan cities on Saturday and that only isolated pockets of resistance to the National Guard remain. However, 5 hours after this official announcement the guerrillas recovered control of Esteli, 150 km to the north, and fighting continued during the night in the cities of Leon, Masaya, Chinandega and Rivas.

In Masaya, where the fighting was intense, over 200 bodies have been lying in the streets for the past 2 days and the government has forbidden the Red Cross to go to the aid of the victims, many of whom are noncombatant civilians. AFP's special correspondent was near the Sandinists' starting position when they launched the attack on government troops which were advancing under the protection of armored vehicles. Under a veritable hail of bullets, the Somozist troops withdrew quickly to their barracks, which was immediately surrounded by 300 guerrillas armed with rifles, revolvers and grenades.

The Sandinists are still in several parts of Leon, Nicaragua's second largest city, located 90 km west of Managua. Several buildings, among them the science institute, were partially destroyed during the battle.

The city of Chinandega, 130 km east of the capital, is also in the hands of the insurgents. However, recent reports indicate that reinforcements arrived in the night to help the garrison, which had been subjected to heavy fire from snipers located in neighboring buildings.

Splashing in the puddles of water coming from riddled pipes, the guerrillas erected barricades from which they plan to resist, on Wednesday, the offensive announced by President Somoza.

Fighting Near Costa Rican Border

PA130345Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0305 GMT 13 Sep 78 PA

[Text] San Jose, 12 Sep (ACAN-EFE)--The fighting between Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] guerrillas and the Nicaraguan National Guard was resumed at 2015 Central American Time (0215 GMT), very close to the Costa Rican border.

The ACAN-EFE correspondents in San Jose confirmed the situation with Costa Rica immigration officials who are at their border post in Penas Blancas.

The civilian residents of this area, on the Costa Rican side, have been evacuated at least 7 km into Costa Rican territory. At this time the area, although not officially declared a war zone, is occupied only by members of the Costa Rican Government forces.

A FSLN communique said tonight that their columns are fighting the National Guard within Nicaraguan territory from the Penas Blancas area to the city of Rivas, 30 km from the border.

The battles are taking place at Las Pilas, Las Lajas, Sapoa and El Congo, said the ACAN-EFE correspondent, who during his conversation with the immigration officer could hear the sounds of heavy-weapons fire over the telephone.

The fighting started at 0730 this morning, Tuesday, ended at 1330 (1930 GMT) and was resumed at 1515 (2115 GMT). [All times as received] The battle is taking place some 2 km from the Costa Rican border. The Sandinists claim to have surrounded the Rivas garrison and that the fighting has not stopped along the Inter-American Highway to Rivas. The fighting has halted the flow of Costa Rican goods to the rest of the Central American countries and vice versa.

National Guard Issues Communique

PA1302172 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0033 GMT 13 Sep 78 PA

[Communique No 51 issued on 12 Sep in Managua by the Legal and Public Relations Office of the Nicaraguan National Guard--read by announcer]

[Text] General Headquarters of the Nicaraguan National Guard, Managua, D.M., Nicaragua

12 September 1978

Communique No 51

The Nicaraguan National Guard's Legal and Public Relations office advises the people that today, 12 September, at approximately 0700 the information service of the Rivas departmental command detected the crossing of the Sapoa River by two trucks carrying armed persons. The trucks were coming from Costa Rica's La Libertad farm, which is owned by Hilma Pastora de (Hallman). Reports had been received to the effect that the farm was being used as a base of operations by subversive elements.

Specialized National Guard quick-action units immediately proceeded to intercept the invaders, who were intercepted in the Sapoa area. After sustaining several casualties, they were forced to divide into two groups which fled in disorder into the mountains of (La Cimienta), approximately 3 km south of Penas Blancas, up to where they were relentlessly pursued by the military patrols, which inflicted several additional casualties on the invaders before they reached the border with Costa Rica. The invaders fled across the border after being completely defeated by National Guard forces.

The high morale, combativeness and efficiency of the National Guard's land and air units is the most relevant factor which leads them to victory over the subversive forces of international communism. The National Guard continues to maintain public order and control throughout the country.

[signed] Col Aquiles Aranda Escobar, member of National Guard legal corps, chief of the Legal and Public Relations Office.

Transportation Normal in Managua

PA130247Y Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0023 GMT 13 Sep 78 PA

[Text] The mass transportation situation was normal in Managua today despite the boycott which the extremists allied to the bourgeoisie have tried to effect in an effort to paralyze the city's gas stations. Thousands of workers went to their places of employment today, making use of mass transportation.

The markets in the capital also supplied housewives with the necessary food items. It became known today that the authorities, under pressure from the working class, are leaning toward opening the gas stations--which are a public service--by means of a law.

Homes Burned in Leon

PA121739Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1659 GMT 12 Sep 78 PA

[Text] Leon, Nicaragua, 12 Sep (ACAN-EFE)--Popular commando groups, which went through the streets of this western Nicaraguan city last night, burned a total of five houses belonging to landowners connected with the government. One of the homes burned belonged to Leonel "Chele" Saravia, wealthy cottongrower of the city. Another home burned belonged to Fanor Arguello Sacasa, a landowner. The aforementioned landowner, who is engaged in a land dispute with peasants, is currently in Miami. The home of Carlos Morales Saavedra, lawyer and former political chief of Leon Department, was also burned. The other two houses burned belonged to unidentified persons.

Catarina Guard Headquarters Burned

PA121738Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1656 GMT 12 Sep 78 PA

[Excerpts] Managua, 12 Sep (ACAN-EFE)--A Sandinist group attacked and burned the National Guard headquarters in Catarina city, 40 km east of here, early this morning. Meanwhile, there were last-minute reports here about civilian-military clashes in Rivas, a city on the Costa Rican Border. A group of tourists trying to cross over to Honduras were turned back to Managua, in view of the situation prevailing in Esteli, where there is no guarantee of anybody's life.

Food Distributed in Chinandega

PA121640Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1532 GMT 12 Sep 78 PA

[Text] Chinandega, Nicaragua, 12 Sep (LATIN)--According to an eyewitness, this morning several guerrilla commands forced local businessmen in this city, 140 km north of Managua, to open their shops and begin distributing food and goods among the people.

The subversive elements began their attacks against police and National Guard posts on Saturday night and last night were in control of the district around the Red Cross central post. According to a neighbor, shots could be heard 3 blocks away from the National Guard headquarters in downtown Chinandega. The city has been without light or water since Saturday.

Report on Masaya

PA130149Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0015 GMT 13 Sep 78 PA

[Excerpts] Masaya, Nicaragua, 12 Sep (LATIN)--The National Guard has permitted the Red Cross to enter the city, which continues to be the scene of armed clashes at 1430 (2130 GMT), almost 3 days after the insurrection began. Ismael Reyes, president of the Nicaraguan Red Cross, spoke to the newsmen who went to the organization's provisional hospital outside the city. He said that 30 wounded soldiers and 100 civilians had already been transferred [not further explained].

There are no figures on the number of dead since the National Guard has given no information in this regard and since the bodies of civilians are not picked up by the Red Cross but by the police homicide division. William Trickey, 50-year-old American crop dusting pilot who managed to leave Masaya yesterday afternoon, told the press that he had never experienced moments of terror in his whole life as those experienced in "the hell of that city." Trickey said that "I believe there are dozens of dead in the park in front of the church, and many of them are soldiers. The central park was covered with the bodies of soldiers."

Silence, sporadically broken by rifle fire, dominates the city. "The bodies are rotting in the streets," said a newsman who managed to get a telephone call through to his old mother, who asked to be evacuated from the city because she is terrified due to the experiences. A patrolman armed with a rifle and a .45 caliber pistol and wearing the blue helmet of the traffic police told this correspondent that the situation is not under control and that the advance of the security forces is very difficult due to the fanaticism of the rebels.

Rain, Storm Affect Fighting

PA130639Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0545 GMT 13 Sep 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 12 Sep (ACAN-EFE)--A heavy rainfall and a large electrical storm "dampened" the intensive fighting which was underway tonight between groups of insurgents and the Nicaraguan National Guard in Diriamba, some 37 km south of this capital.

Reports received by ACAN-EFE indicate that the San Jose and El Reloj neighborhoods in the center of the city and the "Curva del Diablo" on the way to the La Boquita and Casares beaches on the Pacific coast were the sites of armed conflicts in which a Nicaraguan Air Force (FAN) light plane participated. The fighting lasted for 3 hours, until the rain brought the battle to a possibly temporary end. The civilian population was terrified, particularly after the storm caused a power outage.

So far it is known that two guerrillas were killed and two National Guardsmen injured. The guardsmen were taken to Carazo hospital in the city of Jinotepe, 5 km to the south. In that city, contact bombs were heard to explode constantly. The armed clashes between guerrillas and forces loyal to President Somoza's government could resume in the early morning. Both sides have remained in the combat positions they occupied before the storm.

LA PRENSA CRITICIZES U.S. FOR TIES TO SOMOZA

PA130846Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0217 GMT 12 Sep 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 12 Sep (ACAN-EFE)--The U.S. Government has been criticized in an editorial of the Managua newspaper LA PRENSA for maintaining "an ambiguous and contradictory position" toward the Nicaraguan Government of Gen Anastasio Somoza.

Today's issue of the evening paper, which opposes the Somoza regime, emphasizes that the U.S. Government, "under the pretext of nonintervention, refuses to clearly sever its ties with the Somozist dictatorship."

The editorial analyzes the proposal made by Costa Rica and seconded by the United States that the two countries, along with the other Central American states, promote a mediation effort to find a formula for peace for this country, where bloody clashes have been occurring for the past 4 days between guerrilla and popular groups and the Nicaraguan army.

"One cannot fail to mention," the paper says, "the fact that the Somozist dictatorship had its origin in direct U.S. intervention and that the Somoza family's stay in power has been a more subtle form of continuing that intervention."

The paper feels that "in the first place any mediation, whether internal or external, should not become a means for depriving the Nicaraguan people of the right to determine their own destiny."

It adds that "when the various sectors of the Nicaraguan people have demanded the withdrawal of all economic, military and diplomatic aid to Somoza, they were not just requesting that there be no foreign intervention on Somoza's behalf, since all foreign aid strengthens the repressive base of the dictatorship."

The LA PRENSA editorial states that what Nicaragua and the Nicaraguans need is "a solution to the conflict and not a simple temporary 'deflating' of it, which would only lead to an accumulation of tensions resulting in a new explosion on a larger scale within a short time."

The editorial adds that "the basis of the solution to the conflict is, as anyone would realize, the withdrawal of the Somoza family from power. The people judge the conduct of foreign governments from the viewpoint of the specific meaning [they give to] Nicaragua's acquisition of the right to self-determination, the right to free ourselves of Somoza's opprobrious dynastic dictatorship."

BRIEFS

COSTA RICAN FISHING PROJECT--A note from the presidential palace states that the project to develop the Pacific Coast has been started with the purchase of 50 fishing boats financed by the International Development Bank. The 12-ton boats cost 30 million colones and will employ 400 fishermen. [San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 6 Sep 78 PA]

COSTA RICA SIGNS TREATY--Costa Rica has added its signature to the international declaration against air terrorism, according to a spokesman of the Foreign Ministry. [San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 8 Sep 78 PA]

CASTRO STOPS IN MOSCOW ENROUTE TO ETHIOPIA

FL1300359Y Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 13 Sep 78 FL

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro made a brief stop in Moscow enroute to Ethiopia, according to a film report from our Intersputnik service. Fidel Castro met at the airport with USSR Council of Ministers Chairman Aleksey Kosygin. The Cuban delegation includes Carlos Rafael Rodriguez and other Cuban party and government officials.

CASTRO ARRIVES IN ETHIOPIA, ATTENDS ADDIS ABABA RALLY

FL1217427 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 12 Sep 78 FL

[Excerpt] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the PCC Central Committee and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has arrived in Addis Ababa, the Ethiopian capital, and has attended the great popular rally marking the fourth anniversary of the Ethiopian revolution. Fidel, who is responding to an invitation of Mengistu Haile Mariam, chairman of the Provisional Military Administrative Council of the Council of Ministers of Socialist Ethiopia, went from the airport to Revolution Square where the rally was held.

We will never forget the combatants of revolutionary Cuba who, along with our Ethiopian comrades, shed their blood in the battlefields in defense of our cause for socialism, Mengistu Haile Mariam said in his main speech marking the fourth anniversary of the Ethiopian revolution. The date 12 September 1974, he said, is especially significant for us. On that date, the feudal and bourgeois regime was overthrown and the revolutionary state emerged.

Receives Highest Decoration

FL1301017 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0032 GMT 13 Sep 78 FL

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro Ruz, first secretary of the PCC, has been decorated in Addis Ababa with the Grand Order of the Star of Honor of Socialist Ethiopia. The decoration, the highest one of the Ethiopian state and awarded for the first time, was presented to the Cuban leader by Chief of State Mengistu Haile Mariam at a solemn ceremony at the National Palace.

The chairman of the Provisional Military Administrative Council--PMAC--declared at the ceremony that the Ethiopian people recognize Fidel Castro as one of the world's and history's most prominent revolutionary leaders.

At the solemn ceremony, Commander in Chief Fidel Castro thanked the Ethiopian Government and people for the decoration. He said that the friendship and solidarity between the two countries will be eternal.

HAVANA ASKS WIDESPREAD SUPPORT FOR FSLN REBELS

FL1213377 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 12 Sep 78 FL

[Miguel Rivero commentary]

[Text] Today Nicaragua is living a historical moment characterized by a genuine and popular general rebellion under the rallying point of eliminating the tyrannical regime which for over 40 years has misgoverned that Central American country.

Late reports state that intense battles are continuing in the main cities of the country and it can be safely said that Anastasio Somoza's regime is facing one of its weakest moments. The Nicaraguan people, in a concert of voices reflecting indignation at so many crimes, have decided once and for all that the struggle will not cease until the tyranny has been overthrown and a government that considers the dearest wishes of the people has been installed.

A few moments ago the Sandinist National Liberation Front issued a communique stating that its forces have already caused more than 100 casualties among Somoza's military forces. This general and popular rebellion is confronting repression, and the regime is using aircraft and helicopters with greater frequency for bombing and strafing to massacre the population. These cowards and assassins cannot understand that once a people decide to break the chains of oppression there is no force able to stop them.

The most recent proof we have of this is the worthy response of the Nicaraguan people, who knew how to oppose the recent repression unleashed in the city of Masaya after one week in which groups of young Sandinists occupied that town, the third most important one in the country, and conducted an unequal battle with the National Guard.

As a result of the repression in Masaya, the voice of indignation is now raised one hundredfold in over 10 important cities of the country. At this crucial moment, we should now more than ever be aware of the maneuvers being undertaken by the North American government and some Central American regimes attempting to frustrate the revolutionary process that has begun in Nicaragua.

The Cuban Government has already been alerted to this by Somoza's ridiculous accusations against our country and his hysterical claims of an alleged communist danger to justify intervention in Nicaragua by the so-called Central American Defense Council--CONDECA.

On the other hand, there are indications that an effort is being prepared in which Anastasio Somoza would retire or resign but would be replaced by a provisional junta presided over by his cousin and current president of the National Congress, Luis Pallais Debayle. This is the same person who was [illegible] when he was taken hostage at the National Palace recently. This option would also have the present ruler's stepbrother, Jose Somoza, at the head of the National Guard.

For its part, the Sandinist Front has clearly indicated its position in this regard. Any attempt to continue the Somoza regime means that the struggle will continue until final victory. This is a warning that should be taken into consideration by those who are trying to vainly search for an end to the present situation while trying to ignore the people's demands.

News reports from Nicaragua are encouraging and inspiring--primarily on a day like today, when 5 years ago the North American imperialists tried to teach the continent a lesson by overthrowing Salvador Allende and repressing the Chilean people. For all revolutionaries of Latin America, what is going on today in the country of Augusto Cesar Sandino is a clarion call of liberty, an encouragement to continue the struggle against the tyrannies that still remain on our continent.

ALGERIAN OFFICIAL ARRIVES FOR VISIT, MEETS CUBAN LEADERS

FL1216517Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 12 Sep 78 FL

[Text] Mr (Alofon Abdelmadjia), [illegible] of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria, has arrived [illegible]

The distinguished visitor was met at the airport by Osmani Cienfuegos, secretary member of the Council of State; Raul Barzaga, Cuban ambassador to Algeria; Fernandez Flores Ibarra, director of the Directorate for Nonaligned Movement and Giraldo Mazola, director of Africa and Middle East in the Foreign Ministry. Mr (Abdelmadjid) was later received by Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca. Also present at the meeting which took place in a cordial and friendly atmosphere were First Vice Minister Rene Anillo, Vice Minister Jose R. Fleita, and directors Fernando Flores Ibarra and Giraldo Mazola.

ANGOLAN MINISTER HAILS CUBAN CONSTRUCTION ASSISTANCE

FL122210Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2130 GMT 12 Sep 78 FL

[Text] Cuban assistance to Angola in the construction sector has been described as decisive by Manuel Rezende de Oliveira, construction and housing minister of the fraternal country, who held a press conference in this capital. He also hailed the technical and professional level of our construction workers and the spirit of unselfishness and sacrifice they have demonstrated in their work, just as they did before during the war against the imperialist invaders.

He added that such an attitude to a great extent has helped the undertaking of construction projects in Angola and the struggle against the material and qualified personnel difficulties being experienced by the fraternal country. Regarding the principal tasks being undertaken in the construction sector, he said that priority is given to livestock-agricultural, school and public health projects. Finally, the Angolan construction and housing minister reiterated the fraternal nation's gratitude for the support provided by Cubans.

RAUL CASTRO MEETS WITH GUINEA-BISSAU'S VIEIRA

FL121026Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 12 Sep 78 FL

[Text] Army Gen Raul Castro Ruz, second secretary of the PCC and minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces (FAR), has met Joao Bernardo Vieira--member of the African Independence Party of Guinea and Cape Verde (PAIGC) Standing Committee, president of the National Assembly and state commissioner of the Armed Forces of the People's Republic of Guinea-Bissau. At the talks which were held in a very friendly and cordial atmosphere, several topics relating to further strengthening relations between the armed forces of our two countries were discussed.

PUERTO RICAN SOCIALIST PARTY LEADER CITES SOLIDARITY

FL122157Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2130 GMT 12 Sep 78 FL

[Text] As part of the drive of solidarity with Puerto Rico's struggle for independence, Felipe Cirino Colon), member of the Central Committee of the Puerto Rican Socialist Party and its representative in Cuba, today held a press conference. He announced that activities and demonstrations of solidarity with the Puerto Rican struggle will be conducted in our country and that the drive ends on 23 September with a commemoration of the 110th anniversary of the "Grito de Lares."

Jorge Gallardo, vice president of the Cuban Institute for Friendship with Peoples (ICAP), said that the Puerto Rican people's struggle is closely tied to Cuba and its history. He added that ICAP is honored to preside over the program of homage in commemoration of the 100th birthday anniversary of the hero Pedro Albizu Campos, which is today, and the 110th anniversary of the "Grito de Lares."

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

GUZMAN APPOINTS NEW NATIONAL POLICE CHIEF

PA092353Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1507 GMT 8 Sep 78 PA

[Text] Santo Domingo, 8 Sep (AFP)--At midnight on Thursday President Antonio Guzman appointed and administered the oath of office to Col Virgilio Payano Rojas as national police chief. Payano Rojas replaces Maj Gen Robinson Brea Garo, who was appointed on 20 June by then President Joaquin Balaguer. Brea Garo replaced Neit Rafael Nivar Seijas.

Prior to this President Guzman promoted Payano Rojas to brigadier general and then to major general temporarily for as long as he remains national police chief. The presidential decree gave no reason for the top-level change. The lateness of the hour when it took place has given rise to speculation in political circles.

AMNESTY LAW IN EFFECT AS OF 11 SEP

PA102115Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1718 GMT 10 Sep 78 PA

[Text] Santo Domingo, 10 Sep (AFP)--Dominican Attorney General Caonabo Fernandez said here today that the general amnesty law will go into effect starting tomorrow and 192 political prisoners in Dominican jails will be released. The amnesty law was the first law to be issued by new President Antonio Guzman. Included under the new law are persons who have been sentenced or accused on political grounds since 3 September 1963.

33 Political Prisoners Released

PA121223Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 0911 GMT 12 Sep 78 PA

[Text] Santo Domingo, 11 Sep (EFE)--With shouts, hugs and tears, a crowd of several hundred persons today welcomed 33 political prisoners released with the application of the amnesty law.

Among those freed was lawyer Plinio Matos Moquete, a leftist leader arrested 7 years ago after a massive search by the security organizations of former President Joaquin Balaguer. Another Dominican leftist leader, Jorge Puello Soriano of the Popular Dominican Movement (MPD), will be released shortly, EFE was told by Attorney General Caonabo Fernandez Naranjo. The attorney general added that other cases will be reviewed on Tuesday to determine further releases.

Student leader Roberto Santana, who was pardoned by President Balaguer in February, was one of those who gave the first hug to the prisoners who arrived at the Palace of Justice by bus from La Victoria Prison. After being greeted and bade farewell by Attorney General and District Prosecutor Julio Ibarra Rios, the prisoners were cheered by the crowd and embraced by relatives and friends who could hardly be contained by the police.

ECUADOR

ROLDOS FACES CHALLENGE TO CANDIDACY ON BASIS OF AGE

PA1021527 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1230 GMT 10 Sep 78 PA

[Text] After complaining that oligarchic sectors have tried to create an economic crisis and social discord, Jaime Roldos is faced with a challenge to his possible victory because the 1945 Constitution currently in effect requires that a candidate reach the age of 40 to be elected president. According to lawyer Carlos Rumbea Bustos, the registration of Roldos' candidacy is illegal because he has not reached the minimum age required by the 1945 Constitution. According to the republic's present juridical status, the 1945 Constitution is in effect. It specifically provides that the presidency of the republic may not be exercised by anyone who has not yet reached the age of 40.

PRESIDENT OF SUPREME ELECTORAL TRIBUNAL RESIGNS

PA1300337 Paris AFP in Spanish 0017 GMT 13 Sep 78 PA

[Excerpt] Quito, 12 Sep (AFP)--It was officially announced this afternoon that Jose Baquero de la Calle, president of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal, has resigned from his post. He presented his resignation to the members of the military triumvirate, who accepted it. Baquiero de la Calle said that he has resigned for health reasons. He is now receiving medical treatment.

ELECTORAL OFFICIAL WILL EXPLAIN FRAUD CHARGES

PA1214147 Quito Cadena del Triunfo in Spanish 1255 GMT 12 Sep 78 PA

[Excerpt] The Supreme Electoral Tribunal has resumed work after a suspension caused by bombs [words indistinct] who refrained from officially [words indistinct] fraud charges last Thursday by tribunal Vice President Rafael Arizaga Vega. Furthermore, the tribunal president attributed Arizaga's remarks to his temperament but did not want to disavow him altogether. On the contrary, he said, it will be Dr Arizaga himself who will expand on his charges and defend himself during a report to the nation in the next few days.

The announcement elicited the interest of politicians and citizens alike. It could not be otherwise if we take into account that the future of the return to democratic rule is at stake. In the meantime, the Democratic Left Party has called upon Supreme Elector Tribunal members and politicians participating in the vote count to end what it called a depressive showing, which is affecting the institutionalization plan.

HAITI

NEW ARMED FORCES CHIEF OF STAFF APPOINTED

PA0922167 Paris AFP in Spanish 1616 GMT 7 Sep 78 PA

[Text] Port-au-Prince, Haiti, 7 Sep (AFP)--Gen Jean-Baptiste Hilaire, chief of general staff of the Haitian Armed Forces, has been replaced by Lt Gen Roger Saint-Albin, it was learned here today. General Hilaire, who went into the reserve forces, was appointed in 1973 for a 2-year term with the general staff.

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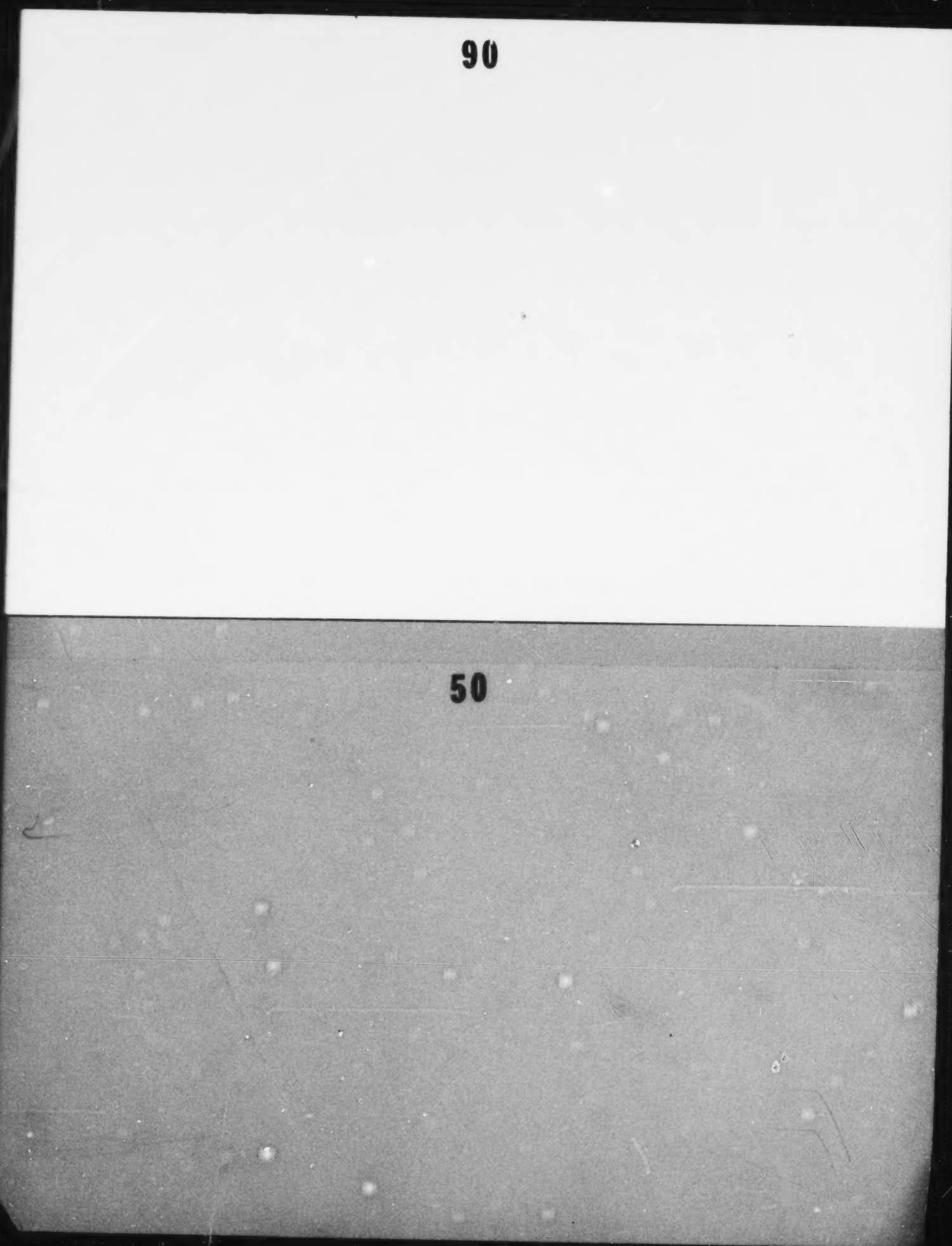
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